THE

R——L

REGISTER.

WITH

ANNOTATIONS

By ANOTHER HAND.

SIC PATER ÆNEAS.

VIRG.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

I HAD intended that the Eighth Volume ſhould have completed the Male Characters; but I find myſelf obliged to intrude, for a few pages, on the ſucceeding one for thoſe that remain.—The late Prime Miniſter, and the actual Leader of Oppoſition, have not yet been conſidered; with ſome others who deſerve, and will not eſcape, the animadverſions of this work. I ſhall then endeavour to alleviate the attention of thoſe who

who peruſe theſe volumes, as well as to diverſify my own labour, by a ſucceſſion of noble, faſhionable, pre-eminent, or notorious females, who have been, for ſome years paſt, or are, at the preſent moment, worthy of regard, or productive of inſtruction.

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CHA-

CHARACTERS, &c.

D—— H——, Esq.

IF the man, by whose industry or invention two blades of grass have been made to grow where only one grew before, be considered as deserving the veneration of mankind; no common reward should be assigned to his merit, whose happy genius has discovered the means of preserving his fellow-creatures from the most fatal of all accidents, and the most alarming of all sufferings.

Agriculture is a principal source of national wealth and comfort; and

every invention which tends to encreaſe and meliorate it's produce, or diminiſh it's labours, demands an adequate reward. But the improvements in Tillage ariſe, in general, from the ſlow operations of doubting experience, among men who obtain their bread by the ſweat of their brows, whoſe minds are not ſufficiently enlarged to adopt, but with reluctance, any deviation from the practice of their forefathers; and who are fearful of riſquing the moderate certainty which they poſſeſs, for the proſpect of greater gains which are yet unknown*. An improved ſtate of Agriculture,

* The more obvious and unexpected improvements in Agriculture have ſprung from the zeal of Gentlemen Farmers, who could afford to make experiments themſelves, and are ever

culture, therefore, though ſo eſſential to public proſperity, does not, from it's almoſt imperceptible progreſs, affect individuals with any forcible impreſſions of reſpect or admiration.

The dread of famine is the laſt of all apprehenſions in a flouriſhing kingdom. The inhabitant of the Country beholds a ſcene of cultivation which precludes all idea of general ſcarcity; and he, whoſe lot confines him to the Capital, views, in the markets, that continual current of plenty which forbids even the moſt diſtant imagination

ever ready to avail themſelves of ſuch as have been made by others; poſſeſſing, at the ſame time, a ſufficient degree of influence to propagate the reſulting advantages in their reſpective neighbourhoods.

of want to approach, where there is money to purchaſe.—If, from inclement ſeaſons, the harveſts ſhould not be proſperous, and a partial ſcarcity ſhould prevail, the watchful care of Government applies a remedy to the misfortune, and calls the ſuperabundance of other countries to ſupply the deficiencies of our own.

In a nation where plenty abounds, money will never fail to procure it: but the treaſury of princes cannot always command ſecurity, nor the wiſeſt laws enſure protection. The daring attack of the robber may be averted by that vigilance which wealth can purchaſe, or be puniſhed by thoſe laws which are awake to ſubdue violence: but there are accidents from

whoſe

whoſe influence no one can claim exemption, which the moſt attentive penetration cannot foreſee, nor the moſt continual vigilance entirely prevent. The ravage of fire is attended with circumſtances of ſuch diſtreſs and horror, that language is at a loſs to deſcribe them; and all the various means which have been invented to ſtop the progreſs, or leſſen the evil, of this dreadful calamity, have proved but partial remedies, till the pre-eminent diſcovery lately made by the Gentleman whoſe name is prefixed to theſe obſervations.

An invention, which, at a ſmall expence, and from repeated experiment, enſures a certain protection of life and property from the moſt cruel

enemy to both, demands, for it's author, the gratitude of his country and of mankind. The Parliament has acted with it's uſual wiſdom in affording an ample encouragement to Mr. H— —'s undertaking; and the city of London, by erecting a pillar to perpetuate a diſcovery ſo eſſential to it's ſecurity, as well as to convey, to future times, an unfeigned ſenſe of gratitude to the author, has wiſely renewed the civic crown of the Roman republic *.

But

* A deputation from the corporate body of London, having breakfaſted in an houſe purpoſely conſtructed and ſet on fire, on Wimbledon-common, being at the ſame time ſupplied with boiling water from the combuſtion of the room beneath them, laid the firſt ſtone of a pillar deſtined to perpetuate Mr. H— —'s name, and the important ſervice his indefatigable genius

But ſuch a ſtrange compound is man, that he is continually turning aſide

nius has rendered to mankind. The freedom of the City was alſo unanimouſly voted to him, and preſented with thoſe marks of public reſpect which give energy to honour.

It may not be improper or unentertaining to mention the accident which gave birth to this moſt valuable diſcovery, and, happily for mankind, was obſerved by the inquiſitive, inveſtigating eye of the patriot philoſopher.—A ſmall piece of timber covered with a plate of iron, a part, perhaps, of ſome uſeleſs inſtrument of huſbandry, was thrown, with other logs of wood, upon this Gentleman's fire, where, though the plate of iron was red hot, it remained not only unconſumed, but apparently undiminiſhed, long after the other fuel was burned to aſhes. This circumſtance caught his moſt eager attention; and after continuing to watch, for a conſiderable time, the very ſlow impreſſions of the fire upon this armed billet, he ordered it to be removed, and, on due inveſtigation, obſerved, that, notwithſtanding the length and heat of it's late ſituation, it

aſide from the path which would conduct him to the Temple of Honour, to

had ſuffered no material injury. Hence a new and moſt intereſting problem aroſe to invite his ardent ſpirit of inquiry. The firſt reſult of his ſpeculations was a ſcheme for cloathing the main timbers, employed in building, with thin plates of iron as a moſt probable means of leſſening accidents from fire, or, when they ſhould unavoidably happen, of checking the elementary fury. But his active Genius did not ſtop here; from the proſpect of leſſening a calamity, he, at length, arrived, by patient ſtudy and philoſophic inveſtigation, to the actual ſuppreſſion of it. He ſpared no expence or trouble in making the moſt public and ſatisfactory experiments; all of which ſucceſſively eſtabliſhed, by the moſt indubitable proofs, the certain beneficial effects of his diſcovery.

This moſt important invention has received the ſupport of Parliament, the applauſive teſtimony of the city of London, and the patronage of his Majeſty: nevertheleſs, I do not hear of it's being ſo generally adopted as might be expected

to purſue ſome deceitful phantom which, at beſt, will lead him aſtray, and may finally delude him to laſting diſgrace and unavailing repentance. This Gentleman, while he has been ſo nobly engaged in diminiſhing the miſchiefs of a furious element,—does not omit any opportunity of add-

pected from the protection with which it has been favoured,—from the natural fears and intereſts of mankind, which it is ſo admirably calculated to ſuppreſs as well as protect; and alſo from the ſmall expence it occaſions, being only $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 per cent. upon the building where it may be employed. The Legiſlature, which has already, in a very liberal manner, promoted Mr. H— —'s Diſcovery, would act conſiſtent with it's general zeal for the public welfare, to think of ſome means to enforce the application of it.

ing

ing his heavy combuſtibles to keep up the flames of faction *.

W. H.

* This Gentleman was firſt introduced to public notice, and nick-named, by a pamphlet, which he wrote on the finances of the State, called the *Budget*. At *Hull*, he was ſometime known by the title of Sir G. S— —'s *Bag-Fox*; as that worthy Baronet, ſwerving for once from his uſual mode of conſtitutional expreſſion, mentioned him to his friends in that town, previous to his firſt election, under that deſcription. The electors, however, did not like the expreſſion at the time, nor the animal itſelf when it came to be turned out: and if any perſon but Mr. S— — had oppoſed him, he would not then have been choſen; as the ſucceeding election evidently proved. A vacancy, however, happened at the laſt advancement of the Rockingham party to power, and he is once again a Parliament man. He is an inquiſitive, induſtrious, ſingular character, and poſſeſſed of uſeful talents, which, till of late, have been more particularly directed to mechanical and philoſophic theories. His ability in calculation may render him ſerviceable

W. H. H——, Eſq.

THIS Gentleman boaſts the ſame political diſpoſitions as his Brother, but without the power of employing his talents, whatever they may be, to a better purpoſe. It

viceable to his party, in or out of place; but his parliamentary diſcourſes never fail to thin the houſe, and afford a cruel exerciſe to the patience of thoſe who ſtay to hear them.

Numberleſs examples might be given of men who have miſtaken the true bent of their Genius, and been ungrateful to the real ſource of their fame. Mr. H—— adds another to the number. He is anxious after political character and reputation;—but the invention to obviate the calamities of fire will be remembered and experienced by a grateful poſterity, —when the *Budget*, which gave a kind of celebrity for the day, and the Letters to the Corporation of *Hull*, which gave no celebrity at all, —have long been forgotten.

ſometimes

ſometimes happens that a violent Politician ſprings, at it were, from the ground, like the ſoldiers of Cadmus, not armed indeed with the weapons of bloodſhed and death, but amply furniſhed with ſpeeches, reſolutions, and pamphlets, the implements of civil warfare, that are replete with the zeal of that party which conjured both him and them into exiſtence *.

J. C——,

* It is a natural object of patriot curioſity to enquire how this worthy Gentleman reconciles the political exertions of his *Berkſhire* and *Glouceſterſhire* intereſts. In the former county he is elected by the anti-miniſterial influence:—in the latter, he has proved himſelf the faſt and effectual friend of the miniſterial party. Mr. *Cheſter*, who was ſupported by the friends of Government in his conteſt for the county of Glouceſter, and was, after his election, as ſubſervient to the nod of a Miniſter as a Country Gentleman need to be, would not

J. C——, Eſq.

AMONG the leading features of modern corruption, the art, which young men have been taught, of ſpending their fortunes before they attain the poſſeſſion of them, is not the leaſt notorious. The means of evading the ſtatute of Uſury have been enlarged to a degree of enormity which demanded the ſerious interference of the Legiſlature; and though ſomething was done to correct the miſchief, the evil ſtill exiſts, and the youth of wealthy expectations are not

not have been choſen, if Major H—— had thrown his intereſt into the oppoſite ſcale. I really wiſh that men of violent patriotiſm would, by a conſiſtent conduct, eſtabliſh their ſincerity beyond the reach of ſuſpicion.

excluded

excluded from purchaſing certain ruin, by a premature acquiſition of money at fifty per cent †.

If, from the nature of our conſtitution and the courſe of national affairs, laws cannot be contrived to quench abuſes ſo fatal to the intereſts of Society; if no legal penalty can be eſtabliſhed which may not be evaded by the urgent Paſſions of Youth and the hungry Avarice of Wealth, it becomes the duty of every good citizen to ſupply the failure or imbecillity of

† In order to diſcourage the borrowing of money in *China*, the legal intereſt is 30 per cent;—a regulation which is related to operate, in a great meaſure, as a general prohibition.—It would not have that effect on the high-ſpirited ſpendthrifts of our time and country.

the

the laws, by treating with ſcorn and contempt the ſuborners of youthful virtue, and making the uſurious Money-lender, who defies the ſtatutes at large, to ſhrink beneath the hatred and deteſtation of mankind.

The man who, from the frame of his conſtitution, a fond attachment to ſome beloved object, or the real comforts of his ſituation, ſhould manifeſt an apprehenſion at expoſing his life in conſequence of ſome idle quarrel, would become a ſubject of no ſmall deriſion, and experience the diſtant manner and cold ſalutation of former acquaintance: while the greedy Pander to the wants of unreflecting youth, finds that wealth, however acquired, will ſuſtain importance; and that pure,

uncontaminated

uncontaminated honour, or even a reputation for common honeſty, is not an indiſpenſable qualification for a place in the Senate of his country.

The Right Hon. W. E——.

THE character of this Right Honourable Gentleman offers a far more pleaſing picture than that which was the laſt ſubject of my diſguſted ſpeculation. By a wiſe application of his uncommon talents, an induſtrious purſuit of proper objects, a pleaſing turn of manners, and a life of private virtue, he has raiſed himſelf in the opinion of mankind, and has been deſervedly appointed to offices of great truſt

truſt and importance. In the different employments which have demanded his ſervice, he has diſcharged their reſpective duties with an honour, zeal, and ability, that reflect no trifling luſtre upon his character, and promiſe to his country the future ſervices of an upright and able ſtateſman*.

W. P———,

* Mr. E—— poſſeſſes talents and induſtry which would enſure ſucceſs in any profeſſion; nor is he leſs indebted to them than to fortune for the rapidity of his advancement. At a very early period, he ſeems to have acquired a certain degree of worldly wiſdom, which qualified him to turn every favourable circumſtance that offered to his own advantage. At the Univerſity he conciliated the affections of Lord R—— S——, who introduced him to his brother, the Duke of M———, by whom he was brought into Parliament, and over whoſe mind, with the aſſiſtance, perhaps, of his brother-in-law, the preſent Biſhop of B——,

W. P———, Eſq.

IN a country where every one is maſter of his own thoughts, and a perfect liberty of converſation is univerſally poſſeſſed, the inhabitants muſt be

he acquired an influence that, at a ſucceeding period, very greatly promoted his political intereſts. At this early period of his career, finding that little was to be expected from the indolent temper of his noble patron, he contrived to ingratiate himſelf with Mr. Wedderburne, who is ſuppoſed to have given him no ſmall aſſiſtance in compoſing The Treatiſe on Penal Laws, which he ſoon after publiſhed. From Mr. W———'s recommendation, Lord Suffolk received him to his unreſerved friendſhip. In a ſhort time he was appointed Under Secretary of State, by which means he became connected with, and was found worthy to be confidentially intruſted by, Lord *North* and his colleagues in office. Other employments now waited upon him; nor did his marriage with the

be better informed in all ſubjects of general knowledge and importance than

the daughter of Sir Gilbert Elliot, by any means, narrow the bottom of his intereſts. Soon after this laſt event, we ſee him appointed to be one of the Commiſſioners, and, as it has been generally believed, the moſt confidentia of that embaſſy to America, ſo diſgraceful to the Britiſh empire. But his ſervices were not confined to the public affairs of government,—the private arrangements of adminiſtration were alſo indebted to his zeal and ability. At a period when the power of the late Firſt Lord of the Admiralty ſeemed to totter—when Lord Charles S— — had determined to reſign his place, in order to give a free vote on the naval queſtions of that day; and even the Duke his brother, influenced, as ſome have ſuppoſed, by the E of P— — —, was inclined to throw his weight into the ſcale of oppoſition; Mr. E— — contrived to turn both of them from their purpoſe, and to keep them within the pale of adminiſtration. He has ſince been appointed Secretary to the Earl of Carliſle as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and ſtills remains, I believe, a

than thoſe of any other nation, where the government ſuppreſſes liberality of

Lord of Trade, and Auditor of Greenwich Hoſpital, &c. &c. &c.

The foregoing hiſtory of Mr. E— —'s early and rapid progreſs in the political world, which, I truſt, is rather accurately delineated, is a rare example of the happy combination of Talents, Diſcretion, and Fortune. That his proſperity is chiefly indebted to the arts of adulation and ſervility, which has been confidently aſſerted, can be believed only by the moſt inveterate prejudice:—that to his other talents he adds the power of pleaſing, and what is called a knowledge of the world, I am willing to allow; but, ſurely, more than ordinary abilities are neceſſary to ſupport the character he has ſuſtained in the trying and important ſtations, as well as the critical conjunctures, wherein he has been employed. The depreciators of his merit will not, I believe, be hardy enough to deny, that he is the Author of thoſe well-known Letters which bear his name, and are addreſſed to his friend, the Earl of Carliſle: in which productions he has diſplayed, in the general opinion of mankind, not

of education and freedom of ſpeech. Hence it is, that, although ingenious men are found in all countries, and that, in a certain line of ſcience, their productions receive a merited approbation; the more important office of Hiſtorian, Legiſlator, and Politician, is reſerved for the ſubject of a free government, where he is at liberty, without fear of oppreſſion from any power, to inſtruct his country and mankind. *Monteſquieu* was afraid to grace his *Spirit of Laws* with that eulogium on liberty which was ever in his mind. He was compelled to cancel many hints and expreſſions in fa-

not only elegance of ſtyle and an amiable ſpirit of candour and moderation,—but uncommon acuteneſs of inveſtigation, and a very ample portion of political erudition.

vour of a free people, and to maſk with a diſguſting hypotheſis thoſe that remain. He was born to be the legiſlator of nations; but the jealous government beneath which he lived, though it could not ſuppreſs his genius, rendered the birth of his immortal offspring, in ſome degree, abortive.

The people of England are much better informed than thoſe of any other nation on the face of the globe: —the education of their ſuperior orders is neceſſarily the moſt perfect in the world; and even the lower claſſes are better inſtructed than the higher ranks of any other country: but corruption is making haſty ſtrides to leſſen our national character, and the number

number is but too few of thoſe in ſuperior life, who, however gifted, will turn from the purſuit of pleaſure and the enjoyments of luxury, to commune with the genius of their country, to aſſiſt her with their councils, and, by a public communication of their ſentiments, to direct the popular attention to a *right view* of popular objects. It is no ſmall conſolation to me at this moment, that Mr. P———'s name is before me. That Honourable Gentleman, though poſſeſſed of great wealth and high condition, has not been ſeduced by indolence or diſſipation from exerting his mind, and employing his pen, to promote the public welfare.

G— B—, Eſq.

IT is not in the fanaticiſm of Religion alone that enthuſiaſm is miſtaken for inſpiration;—the Political Fanatics have alſo their ſelf-deluſions, by which they are led to miſtake zeal for integrity,—abuſe for ſincerity,—noiſe for eloquence,—obſtinacy for virtue,—and oppoſition to government for undefiled Patriotiſm.

An ordinary obſerver of human affairs might look with eager curioſity towards the conduct of ſuch men, when their angry labours have been crowned with ſucceſs, and the adminiſtration of public affairs is reſigned

to

to their care. But the man of experience in human nature, who is well-read in the motives of human action, is not to be told, that they will be the firſt to complain of the attacks made upon them, which they, with ſuch unreſerved violence, have made upon thoſe who preceded them.

The furious patriot who has miſtaken a deſire of power for a love of his country, when poſſeſſed of the former, ſoon diſcovers the oppoſing ſpirit which has been his own boaſt, to be no virtue in the boſoms of other men. Nor does he remain any length of time without a full conviction, that to pull down may be the work of rude and brutal ſtrength, but to build up, or maintain an edifice

fice already erected, demands that ſcience which yields only to labour, and that ſkill which is the fruit of experience *.—Violent men can never

* Mr. E— — B—'s Reform bill, that ſplendid Child of Oppoſition, which was declared, on its firſt appearance, to be of ſuch a practicable nature as might be reared into immediate ſtrength and utility; when re-produced by the ſame gentleman, in his miniſterial capacity, was ſo changed in it's temper, features, and faculties, that the former fondling was hardly known by it's father's friends,—and even parental affection was compelled to acknowledge that it was no longer a ſource of flattering expectation. Mr. T— — T— — has alſo found no ſmall degree of inconvenience and diſtreſs from having the battery of vexatious *interrogatories* opened againſt himſelf, which he was uſed to play off with ſuch malicious violence againſt a late adminiſtration.

preſerve,

preſerve, in any ſituation, a conſiſtency of character or conduct †.

A———n B—.

IT ſo happens, that, by a combination of events, equally unexpected and improbable, men are ſometimes ſurprized into ſituations, for which

† From the public Addreſſes aud patriot Anger which flowed, in ſuch copious plenty, from Mr. B—'s pen, at the vacancy for Middleſex, by the death of Serjeant Glynn, it may be ſuppoſed, that, from his anxious wiſh to repreſent a county, he had forgotten to aſk himſelf, whether the influence by which he had been brought in for a borough was perfectly conſiſtent with the Britiſh conſtitution. I cannot be of opinion, that any man, who is already indebted for his ſeat in Parliament

which neither the tenor of their paſt lives nor their own immediate character had given any expectation, and to whoſe attainment even the idleneſs of wiſhing had not been directed. Whenever ſuch an accident arrives, it is generally found to involve ſome ſudden diſplay of latent ability, or to exhibit a ſcene where new-blown vanity acts it's buſy part, at the artful inveſtigation of men, whoſe inferiority of virtue bears an equal proportion to their ſuperiority of underſtanding.

ment to the commanding interpoſition of a peer of the realm, has a right to complain of ſimilar, or indeed any, influence being exerted againſt him as a candidate for any other repreſentation.

What-

Whatever reſpectability of character a man ſo elevated, ſo guided, and ſo deceived, may poſſeſs in his private or profeſſional ſituation,—his ſimplicity is ſo ſimple, or his honeſty ſo much allayed with petty pride, that he is neither an object of eſteem or commiſeration *.

The

* If theſe obſervations had been leſs ſevere, they might have been applied with more juſtice to the public conduct and character of the worthy alderman whoſe name precedes them. Being a leading man among the City Diſſenters, who were warmly attached to the cauſe of liberty, in the perſon of Mr. Wilkes, he became a zealous and liberal member of the well-known Society of the *Bill of Rights*. This circumſtance, with repeated acts of friendſhip and ſupport to the then favourite object of popular enthuſiaſm, procured him a ſeat among the magiſtrates of London, raiſed him to the dignity of Lord Mayor, and

The Right Hon. Mr. F———.

AMONG the many objects of mortification with which a corrupt age diſtreſſes the Lover of human Nature, there is not one that more

and the honourable ſervice of repreſenting his fellow-citizens in Parliament. That he has been the dupe of Mr. W— is very generally believed: but if any latent ſeeds of vanity were harboured in his mind, which only waited for an opportunity to burſt forth into luxuriance, he cannot be ſaid to have paid a very extravagant price for the harveſt of honours which he has reaped by the aid of his adopted patriot. It has been the pleaſure or the wit of ſome, even of his own party, to hold the Alderman forth as a weak and ſilly character; nor has the very perſon, who firſt propoſed him as an object for public honours, been guiltleſs of making him a ſubject of private ridicule. In his profeſſional capacity he has borne a fair and upright character;

more ſincerely afflicts his contemplative ſpirit than the character where-

racter; as a common or chief Magiſtrate of London, he has given ſatisfaction to his fellow-citizens; and the integrity of his repreſentative truſt has been eſtabliſhed, in the moſt ample and public manner, by a re-election againſt powerful competitors. Men, whoſe lives have been paſſed at the Merchant's deſk or in the warehouſe, cannot be expected to poſſeſs a brilliance of talent, or the ſplendor of external qualifications;—they have ſufficient honour in the attainment of commercial knowledge, and the exerting of it with integrity and ſpirit. I cannot but add, that Mr. B—'s parliamentary ſpeech on the act for exporting Tea to America, by no means betrayed a deficiency of underſtanding adequate to his ſtation. It was delivered on a ſubject of which, from his particular branch of trade, he was a perfect judge,—and conſiſted of a plain, commercial, but powerful argument againſt ſome of the leading motives which government had declared to be the foundation of the fatal meaſure which he oppoſed.

in diſſipation and luxury have baffled the moſt partial efforts of nature. When a mind, framed with that native ſtrength which is the cradle of great talents, and poſſeſſing that happy intuition which ſaves the toil of attainment and anticipates experience; when ſuch a mind, turning aſide from thoſe objects which are worthy of it's purſuit, applies it's beſt energies to the commerce of the gaming-table, without exception, the moſt abandoned ſchool of profligacy; it almoſt ſtaggers the reſolutions of virtue, and adds a ſignal boaſt to the triumphs of vice.

In the catalogue of human evils there does not appear to be any one whoſe effects are ſo obnoxious to human

man happineſs as the Love of Game. It ſtrikes at the root of every noble quality of the heart, declares open hoſtility againſt all the duties of ſocial life, and erects an altar to the phantom of honour on the ruins of common honeſty: in ſhort, it befouls the faireſt mind, and annihilates all the beſt ſenſibilities of the human Character.

If a gameſter performs a good action, it is done with the ſame indifference which accompanies the commiſſion of a bad one. He relieves the neceſſities of an unfortunate companion with no greater ſympathy than he felt at the moment when he himſelf completed his ruin: or, beſtowing a tranſient attention to the diſ-

tractions of an infatuated wretch who has juſt loſt the laſt ſtake of a large fortune, he calmly wonders that any one ſhould venture to engage in play, who does not poſſeſs a ſufficient reſolution to ſupport it's misfortunes.

A life of play is a life of diſhonour,—it's objects, it's motives, and, for the moſt part, it's ſociety, are diſhonourable. It is a continual fever, a ſucceſſion of hot and cold fits, which in the end deſtroy every nerve of virtue. What is the Gameſter's boaſt but the ruin of other men? His happineſs, if his intemperate ſatisfactions deſerve that name, grows out of others miſery. He blaſphemes at adverſity, and makes the worſt uſe of proſperity. He unites in himſelf the

the avarice of the miſer who hoards, and the profuſion of the ſpendthrift who diſſipates. He gains his wealth like a knave, and he ſpends it like a fool.

It is but juſt, however, to obſerve, that, although the ardour of game degrades the ſtrongeſt reaſon, it's diſtreſſes have been known to awaken the ſufferer to happier exertions. An active mind, when driven from one object, muſt neceſſarily ſeize upon another, or be loſt in deſpair; and though the repentance of a gaming-table is generally a repentance of the paſſions,—it is not impoſſible but that a cultivated mind, originally virtuous, and not irrecoverably corrupted, may, by loſing the means of in-

 dulging

dulging it's former debaſing inclinations, be brought back to a ſenſe of true honour, as the faculties of reaſon, diſordered by diſeaſe, are reſtored, by the bliſter's power, to their wonted intelligence. If at the period of diſappointment and diſguſt at paſt misfortunes, the man of talents ſhould take the road which leads to the temple of honour, the errors of his former life will be thrown into oblivion by the beneficial virtue of his future years *.

W———,

* The Right Honourable Gentleman, by a humane contemplation of whoſe character theſe poignant and juſt obſervations may have been ſuggeſted, is, I believe, well known to have given the whole force of his underſtanding and attention to the concerns of the gaming-houſe. But, I truſt, that ſuch a lamentable

W——— B——, Eſq.

TO expreſs any degree of ſurpriſe at a difference of character and conduct in parents and children, would betray ſuch an ignorance

mentable purſuit has not depraved his uncommon talents, nor entirely corrupted his heart. How far the love of game may have operated upon the latter, I cannot tell, as I do not know him; but his exerciſe of the former, in the office of Secretary of State to a late Viceroy of a ſiſter kingdom, proves, beyond all doubt, that he not only poſſeſſes great ſtrength of underſtanding, but the ready faculty of applying it to the paſſing occaſion. In a time of great danger and difficulty he obtained the good opinion of the jealous people, in whoſe government he poſſeſſed a leading and unſuſpected ſtation. To his wit, and other elegant accompliſhments which he is ſaid to poſſeſs, I cannot bear a perſonal teſtimony; but the univerſal voice of all who know him is loud and laviſh in his praiſe.

of the world and want of obſervation, as would well merit the moſt animated ſneer of ridicule. Nevertheleſs, there are many and no uncommon circumſtances which render a father's progreſs though life as worthy of a partial imitation, at leaſt, from his offspring.

In the ordinary intercourſe of ſociety, men who know the world, and govern their actions by the rules of poliſhed life, whatever their private ſentiments may be, will never openly oppoſe themſelves to thoſe particular errors or foibles which mark the character of their friends. They cautiouſly avoid the poſſibility of giving offence, by any the moſt diſtant alluſion to circumſtances which may

may call forth a regret in the boſom, or cauſe a bluſh to riſe upon the cheek, of thoſe with whom they converſe. Theſe attentions to what is called good manners and ſocial decorum, are objects of ſuch ſerious conſideration, that many might be found who would feel a more ſenſible mortification at an accidental breach of them, than would ariſe, perhaps, from the omiſſion of a moral duty, or even the commiſſion of an actual crime.

If ſuch a regard be thought due to the common miſcellaneous acquaintance of the day, ſome degree of cautious reſpect ſhould be paid to the memory of thoſe who are no more, from whom we ſprung, by whoſe tender care we have been educated, and to whoſe labour we are indebted for

our fortune. That a man ſhould ſhape his conduct by a ſcrupulous adherence to that of his father, would be as idle as to be governed in his own dreſs by the faſhion of his father's wardrobe. He may be ſenſible of a parent's failings and avoid them, without calling the public attention to his own ſuperior virtue. He may take a different path from that in which a father trod, without a bold appeal to mankind on their comparative merit. He may even improve upon the conduct of an anceſtor with ſuch a degree of filial delicacy, as may ſerve to turn any calumniating attention from the ſepulchre of his family. A living parent may be able to protect his own character; but the faithful care of his poſthumous reputation he bequeaths to his ſurviving

viving offspring. An ample illuſtration might accompany theſe ſentiments: but I ſhall only add, that a man who lives in a ſtate of active and zealous oppoſition to the friends of his father's fortune, is guilty of ingratitude both to the living and the dead *.

A— — — —

* Mr. B— —'s father, when elected an alderman of London, was in a mediocrity of circumſtances which many thought, at that time, to be a diſgrace to the magiſterial dignity of the city. However, by *ſubſequent contracts with government*, he became, as he died, one of the moſt wealthy merchants in the Britiſh dominions. The inheritor of his noble fortune has, in and out of parliament, been a conſtant and violent partizan of that oppoſition which ſo continually embarraſſed the reigning adminiſtration when the foregoing ſhrewd obſervations were written. As a matter of private curioſity, I ſhould be glad

A———— W———, Eſq.

THE Lawyer who unites the erudition of his profeſſion with the attainment of more enlarged and liberal ſcience, poſſeſſes either a ductility of mind which is capable of receiving any impreſſion, or is endued with that rare comprehenſive ſuperiority of underſtanding which commands the avenues of univerſal knowledge.

The Laws of England, though formed upon the principles of rendering a people happy beyond any

glad to be informed how this gentleman conducted himſelf on the repeated buſineſs of the *Contractors bill* in the Houſe of Commons.

other

other code that now does or ever did exiſt in the world, are not calculated to enlarge the minds of it's profeſſors. The forms with which the jealouſy of public juſtice has guarded all legal proceſs,—the obſolete language that cuſtom has continued to law proceedings,—the uſages, ſtatutes, and judicial decrees, which form the rule of public deciſion, all tend to keep the mind within a certain circle of formal knowledge that precludes any bold excurſive flights to the diſtant regions of Science. A lawyer may be a diſtinct, able, judicious, and ready reaſoner, but he ſeldom riſes to the character of a great orator. The nature of his daily taſk is againſt it. To comment upon a doubtful law, to trace the hiſtory of an ancient cuſtom,

tom, to illuſtrate or explain away a judicial report, to traverſe the mazes of a title-deed, to examine a witneſs, and to addreſs a jury, do not, very often, afford an opportunity for the ſuperior exertions of Eloquence. It is very ſeldom, indeed, that an advocate of the firſt reputation, and the longeſt practice, has found himſelf in a ſituation which demanded the utmoſt efforts of his knowledge, his ſkill, and his eloquence. If to his profeſſional character be added that of a member of parliament, he may find an occaſional opportunity of giving his powers their full freedom, unſhackled by the inſtructions of a brief, the forms of a court, or the letter of the ſtatutes. But ſo it is, that in every ſituation, whether pub-

lic

lic or private, the Lawyer breaks forth, and the bar predominates. There may be, now and then, an example of abilities which diſdain all and every reſtraint, where predominant genius refines the power that threatens to obſtruct it, and illuminates the drowſy gloom of formal ſcience. Such a rare example now lives to employ the aſtoniſhment of mankind*. That eminent perſon, deſervedly conſidered as a phœnomenon, does not counteract the truth of my general poſitions. And I am taught to believe, that the able advocate, whoſe name is before me, though he may at times ſucceed in giving ſome-

* I feel it almoſt impertinent to anſwer this alluſion with the name of the Earl of Mansfield.

what

what of a claſſical garb to his pleadings, is an example to confirm them †.

Mr.

† The whole of this eminent Lawyer's public life would be a moſt curious piece of political and profeſſional biography. But I could not juſtify the aſſigning him ſuch a portion of theſe pages as would be requiſite for his complete illuſtration. A few leading circumſtances, however, of his life and fortune ſhall not be omitted.

Mr. W——— was educated for the Scottiſh bar, but not finding a ſufficient degree of encouragement, he followed the example of thouſands of his countrymen, and came to London, in a ſituation, and with an appearance, which created other emotions than thoſe of envy: but fortune ſoon began to ſmile upon him and to promiſe future favours. His practice, for a young man, became conſiderable, and his induſtry and abilities were gaining ground, when Lord B—, at the commencement of his unfortunate adminiſtration,

Mr. S——t G——.

IT often happens, that, from events the moſt unexpected as well as the leaſt probable, men are conducted and ſometimes hurried into ſituations, towards

miniſtration, brought him into parliament for one of the government boroughs. This circumſtance could not be omitted, as he is more generally known by his parliamentary than his profeſſional abilities. When his patron was forced from his high office in the ſtate, Mr. W——— was conſidered of ſufficient conſequence, by every party, to find a ready admittance into the ſenate, where he never failed to ſtand forth whenever he thought the occaſion worthy of his exertions. He was once even inflamed into oppoſition, and in the conteſts about the Middleſex election, he not only oppoſed government with the moſt ſanguine violence in parliament, but even attended the county-meetings at York, to reprobate, what he was pleaſed to ſtyle, the corrupt

wards which there has not been an encouragement to direct an idle wish.

To

corrupt and unconstitutional decision of the House of Commons. Nay, so far did his zeal operate in this business, that he vacated his seat, because it was given him by a well-known Baronet of the court-party.

On Mr. Grenville's death, to whose political fortune he had been some time attached, he found it convenient to take another route, to adopt new opinions, and to be totally uninfluenced by his former conduct and sentiments, which he never hesitated to belye and contradict whenever such a duplicity was necessary for the service of his new connections. Since that period he has risen to be Solicitor and Attorney General, Chief Justice of the ———, and a peer of the realm. The *Seals* were his object, but he was disappointed by the intrepid vigilance and superior abilities of the noble lord who is now the guardian of them.

His abilities, not originally great, have been improved by uncommon labour, and are accompanied with that kind of judgment which

To ſuch an event this learned lawyer owes the popularity of his life,

which reſts in the midway between wiſdom and cunning. He is a correct, methodical, and plauſible ſpeaker, poſſeſſing a ready, but not a rapid fluency, and deeply ſkilled in all the arts of promoting the temporary purpoſes of debate. He has, indeed, been ſometimes known to diſplay a ſpirit of manly eloquence; and it muſt be acknowledged that the celebrated *Phillipic* he pronounced againſt Dr. Franklin before the Privy Council, would do honour to the beſt orators of our time and country.

In private life he may poſſeſs that degree of pride and ſelf-conceit which, however offenſive, is almoſt pardonable in men who have riſen from nothing to unexpected greatneſs. Lord L———— is by no means a popular character: the good opinion of the public does not oppreſs him; and I have heard that his perſonal virtues, whatever they may be, have never attracted any flattering tribute of private friendſhip.

and, at the ſame time, perhaps, the loſs of tranquillity and the ruin of his health.

Whether the law queſtions which called him forth into the blaze of public notice, adminiſtered to his real happineſs, he alone can determine. Of popular applauſe he has had his ſhare, and even his opponents are ready to acknowledge that he maintained the principles upon which he began his public career with unſhaken conſtancy, and preſerved a conſiſtent character to the laſt *.

E— —

* When Mr. Wilkes was committed to the Tower under the apprehenſion of a General Warrant, as the Author of the *North Briton*, application was made to Mr. *Serjeant Davy* to move for an Habeas Corpus, on the occaſion, in

Edward Thurlow

E— T—, Esq.

THIS very able, eminent, and constitutional Lawyer is in the high road to the first honours of his profession *.

It

in the court of Common Pleas; but being one of the King's Serjeants, he thought it prudent to decline the office, and recommended his brother Glynn, as one of the most learned and indefatigable lawyers in Westminster-Hall. He was accordingly employed in that, and all the succeeding popular questions and trials, in which he displayed the abilities of a great lawyer and the zeal of a true patriot. His public life is well known, and was supported by no common share of private virtue.

* This declaration was prophetic of that rank which this eminent advocate has since attained. But after he had been, for some time, A— G—, his expectations, and perhaps his ambition, did not look beyond the presidency

It appears to me, that many of the antient hereditary nobles look with a jealous

of an inferior court of juſtice. The Seals were ſecretly intended, by the leading influence of the cabinet, for the Solicitor General; and Mr. T—— had almoſt made up his mind to accept the appointment of Chief Baron of the Exchequer, when an accidental hint of a friend opened his eyes to the game which was playing againſt him, and determined him to preſs forward to the higheſt office of the law.—As the anecdote is ſhort as well as curious, it ſhall be related: The A——, after the buſineſs of the morning, was met upon his walk in the neighbourhood of Weſtminſter-bridge by a friend, who aſked him concerning the truth of a report, that he was to ſucceed the Chief Baron of the Exchequer; to whom he anſwered, that he was then in the act of reflecting upon the buſineſs, and, tired as he was of the labour of the bar, he thought the bench that was offered to him would prove an eaſy and comfortable retreat for the reſt of his days. Whereupon, his friend replied,—"Then you will be, in the opinion of all

jealous eye upon thoſe who win their way to the peerage by the laborious and rugged aſcent of the law. I cannot

all mankind, the dupe of a cunning Scotchman, who has, by his intrigues, brought about the buſineſs now in agitation, that he may ſecure the S—s to himſelf, in defiance of your better claim and ſuperior talents." On this information, he determined to reject the offer then before him, and to ſpare no pains in making his way to the high office he now poſſeſſes.—Whoever compares the uncommon abilities this great lawyer has diſplayed, as Attorney-General, a member of parliament, a peer of the realm, and Lord High Chancellor, with the notorious pleaſurable indolence and coffee-houſe dalliance of no very diſtant period, muſt acknowledge, that he poſſeſſes a ſtrength of underſtanding and quickneſs of talents which have but few examples. His eloquence partakes of his character, and is bold, explicit, deciſive, and inflexible. His arguments are powerful and univerſal; and, though his manner is diſdainful of the graces,

not ſuppoſe that ſuch a circumſtance can be among the common deluſions of pride, which, wrapped up in it's own importance, cannot, or will not, ſee, that, in the eye of unprejudiced reaſon, the man, who himſelf obtains honours, is a more deſerving object of applauſe, excluſive of other merit, than any of his ſucceſſors who are the paſſive inheritors of them.

Lawyers, who are elevated to the Peerage, take their ſeat with all the qualifications neceſſary to excel the hereditary peers. A perfect knowledge of every branch of the conſtitution, the gift of public ſpeaking,

he commands an energy of expreſſion which, though it may not charm, is a moſt formidable engine in the art of perſuaſion.

the

the arts of debate and the habits of public buſineſs, together with the concomitant maſs of knowledge which, abſtracted from the intuition of genius, an eminent advocate muſt glean in the courſe of long practice, will give him a natural ſuperiority in either Houſe of Parliament. Pride is a ſore and a ſuſceptible paſſion; ſo that, after all, the titles of antient times, nurtured in arrogance, may feel a mortification in being obliged to give way to ſuperior underſtanding, when decked only with the infant honours of yeſterday †.

It

† The Earl of Hardwicke, when he preſided in the Houſe of Lords, never delivered his opinion but on Law or conſtitutional queſtions: and I am diſpoſed to think, that the

It is, however, on men of ſuch underſtanding that a nation is to depend for conſtitutional ſervice, and the Sovereign for honeſt councils. Being poſſeſſed of minds long inured to toilſome exertion, they find an attention to the leſs arduous and more enlarged duties of their new ſtation to be, as it were, a refreſhment from paſt labour:—the habits of the gaming-houſe, and effeminacy of luxurious life, neither diſtract their thoughts, impair their talents, or beget in them an indifference for the public welfare; and, not being brought up in the ſervility of a court, they may be more naturally ſuppoſed to poſſeſs

practice of ſome of his ſucceſſors, in mingling with every petty miniſterial converſation, has not added to their official dignity.

that

that unpoliſhed intrepidity of character, which dares to offer unvarniſhed truth to the Royal ear *.

It is my firm opinion, that every patent, which confers the peerage on an able and diſtinguiſhed Lawyer, infuſes no ſmall portion of ſtrength

* It is generally thought, that his Majeſty pays a very peculiar attention to the opinion of this learned Nobleman; for which preference he is ſuppoſed to be indebted to that plain, unreſerved mode of expreſſion, by which the late *Lord Northington* acquired ſo large a ſhare of the royal favour and bounty: though certain ſhrewd obſervers of human nature have ventured to aſſert, that no common degree of art may be employed beneath the unembroidered veil of blunt and unpoliſhed diſcourſe.

and underſtanding into the body of nobility †.

Admiral Keppel

IF there is any character which demands the pre eminent reſpect of every Britiſh ſubject, it is the intrepid naval officer whoſe life has been paſſed in vanquiſhing the enemies, protecting the commerce, and encreaſing the glory of his country.

† According to this idea, no inconſiderable quantity of health and vigour has been of late infuſed into the hereditary council of the nation. But I am afraid that by the late ample creation of Law peers, a part, or rather, if I may be allowed to pun, *Party* alone is ſtrengthened, and not the whole.

To

To her naval power Great Britain muſt look for ſupport, proſperity, and honour; and, in the hiſtory of it, is ſeen the courſe of that coloſſal greatneſs which has riſen ſuperior to every nation of the antient or modern world.

The naval education of times paſt was directed to no other object but profeſſional excellence, and diſdained thoſe graces which give a luſtre to poliſhed life. The ſailor, however high his ſtation or command, was baſhful and ill at eaſe in miſcellaneous ſociety. His rough ſincerity knew not how to conform itſelf to the flattering phraſe of elegant converſation. The ocean was his element, the quarter-deck his theatre, and the battle

his

his delight. The man, who felt himſelf uneaſy amid the ceremonies of a drawing-room, and would ſhut his ears againſt the muſic of an opera, found, in the engagement of an enemy, the energies ſuitable to his nature, and was glad when his voice was drowned in the thunders of the fight. Such was *Hawke*, ſuch are the few who remain of his ſchool,—and the Honourable Admiral whoſe name precedes theſe obſervations, is in the firſt rank of them.

A new ſyſtem has ſince prevailed. The naval officer is now become a man of poliſhed manners, and is not diſtinguiſhed, by any hardy roughneſs of character, from the ſilken ſons of luxury. Whether this change will leſſen

leſſen the ſuperior reputation of our naval commanders, might be a matter of intereſting ſpeculation to thoſe who love to ſpeculate: but time alone can decide the queſtion, and to that tribunal I am not afraid to reſign it *.

G— — —r

* Theſe animated ſentiments were written previous to the memorable 27th of July: a day of great national misfortune; but I will never acknowledge it to be a day of national diſgrace, in oppoſition to the oaths of no ſmall number of the beſt and braveſt officers in the Britiſh navy, who either gave their evidence or pronounced judgment on the conduct of the noble Admiral. If the reputation of that gallant officer is not fully eſtabliſhed after ſuch a trial, future guilt, as far as it relates to perſonal fame, has an ample authority to reprobate any condemnation; and future innocence is for ever deprived of ſolid conſolation from any acquittal. On the other hand, he entered with a degree of open animoſity into

G———r J——.

THERE is a certain ſpecies of character, which, from an hardy intrepidity of ſpirit, is not framed to conciliate the regards of private affection,

into the oppoſition to his Majeſty's ſervants, which was highly imprudent,—and he accompanied it with declarations that were not only unprofeſſional, but bore the evident marks of pique and defiance. His zeal, however honeſt, was intemperate, and led him into errors, which his impartial cotemporaries cannot applaud, and poſterity will unceremoniouſly condemn.

The conduct of the nation towards A--K—— has afforded a very ſingular example of Engliſh caprice and generoſity. After his unſucceſsful engagement with the enemy off the coaſt of France, the people, diſappointed in their ſanguine expectations, did not ſcruple to paſs their ſevere ſentence on an officer who had

fection, nor becomes ſubject to the ſofter influences of domeſtic life, but,

had long been the object of their higheſt eſtimation: but on the unexpected and injudicious accuſation of him by Sir H— P———, the public ſentiment of regard immediately returned towards a former, and, as it appeared, a perſecuted, favourite. During the court-martial, a general agitation appeared in his favour throughout the kingdom; and his very honourable acquittal was followed by a prodigality of rejoicing unparallelled and univerſal.

The more enlarged and liberal education of our modern naval officers has not, as yet, been attended with any conſequences diſgraceful to their character. The preſent war has afforded examples of courage and conduct equal to any other. *Julius Cæſar* was uſed to ſay, that his ſoldiers fought beſt when they were perfumed; and the gallant nobility of France do not loſe, in the luxurious and effeminate pleaſures of peaceful times, that ſenſe of honour which urges them to encounter, with unreſerved courage, the toils of camps and the dangers of war.

nevertheleſs,

nevertheleſs, diſplays a kind of unamiable utility when engaged in public concerns, and directed to objects of doubtful enterpriſe.

In a government where every public concern paſſes through the inveſtigation of, and every perſon employed in the ſtate is liable to have his conduct examined by, a popular aſſembly,—there is a political advantage if but one member of it will dare to lift up his voice againſt all parties, and endeavour to ſtem the haſty torrent of public opinion.

There are momentary periods in all free governments, when men and meaſures are the objects of unreflecting applauſe or condemnation. The

firſt impreſſion of the people is often founded in error: an accidental event, which could not be foreſeen or prevented, will, ſometimes, raiſe a coward to fame, or condemn an hero to diſgrace. Party operates from motives founded in paſſion, which, having no object but it's own gratification, is often indifferent as to any other reſult of it's efforts. To oppoſe, therefore, the haſty decrees of public zeal, to trace actions to their ſource in the moment of impetuous deciſion, and to reſiſt the power of party in the exulting career of victory, demands a kind of public daring which is poſſeſſed by few. Such a man, though he muſt fail in the moment of conteſt, may accelerate the return of general reaſon. To him

the virtuous and the brave may owe an early reſtoration of their fame ;— from his reſolution the laurels which have been beſtowed by caprice may experience a precipitate decay, and the public apprehenſion be more immediately called forth to detect the motives of contending parties.

Theſe opinions would, perhaps, find as little approbation as the character they are intended to delineate. Mankind, as well as individuals, however they may wiſh to be right, feel a mortification in the proof that they have been wrong, and do not regard the author of ſuch a conviction with complacency or favour. Self-love is univerſal ; it acts in an aggregate as well as a particular capacity ; and,

in

in either ſituation, is equally indiſpoſed to receive the pain of humiliation without indulging emotions of reſentment.

But, whatever variety of opinions there might be concerning the good or evil of this ſpecies of character in the internal regulations of ſociety,—it will not be denied that there are ſcenes of action in which, when they become neceſſary, ſuch a man muſt be employed. In a ſtate of war, it often happens that plans of enterprize are formed, which, though of indiſpenſable neceſſity, are of uncertain expectation; where the danger is great, and the views of ſucceſs more than doubtful. The officer

whoſe reputation is already eſtabliſhed, will be averſe to put it to ſuch a perilous hazard. Some might think the nature of the propoſed operations to be beneath the dignity of their paſt exploits; while others, who poſſeſs every diſpoſition requiſite for the buſineſs, look, with apprehenſion, to the evident poſſibility of failure, and the undeſerved diſgrace which ſo often waits upon the beſt endeavours when unaided by fortune. In ſuch, and it might be, an important exigency, that man is alone capable of ſerving his country with effect, who is reſolved to deſerve ſucceſs though he ſhould not obtain it,—who poſſeſſes the reſolution to ſuſtain himſelf amid the outcries of momentary diſappointment,

appointment, and can calmly wait the return of public reaſon to demand his reward *.

J—

* The honourable Governor or Commodore, for both theſe titles ſeem to be indifferently aſſimilated to this Gentleman's name, does not appear to have been troubled with the leaſt degree of ceremonious heſitation in any part of his life; nor, however the poſition of his character may vary, does he betray a diſpoſition to be an apologiſt, even for himſelf. He was a violent partizan of the oppoſition to Lord North's adminiſtration, till he was named to be one of the American Commiſſioners; and the Miniſter ſeems to have had no common confidence in the hardihood of his temper, when he aſſigned to him the power of venal diſtribution. Whether he actually offered or only hinted a bribe to a member of the Congreſs may be known by an examination of the affidavit, made in America, which relates and records the tranſaction. This part of his conduct, however, ſo highly offended the rulers of rebellion, that they inſiſted upon

J— C——, Eſq.

IT affords me great ſatisfaction, when, in the courſe of theſe enquiries, the character of a reſpectable country gentleman preſents itſelf to my

his diſcontinuing the oſtenſible office of Commiſſioner, as the only terms upon which they would continue any communication with the humbled remains of the Britiſh embaſſy.—What his naval abilities may be, I do not know; but he muſt have no little confidence in them himſelf, when he ventured upon ſo new, ſo ſingular, and ſo ſevere an examination of Lord Howe's conduct in the American ſeas, while the whole navy conſidered it as a *chef d'œuvre* of nautical ſkill and profeſſional exertion. From a new ſyſtem of his own invention, he, boldly and without reſerve, endeavours to make it appear that the noble Lord has given no great proofs of the one or the other. With the ſame eaſe that he had employed his theory of

my conſideration. That rank of men are the moſt faithful and unequivocal friends of their country. I moſt devoutly wiſh that the Lower Houſe of Par-

of the comparative proportions of naval force to the diſadvantage of another, he neglects the application of it to his own ſituation at *Saint Jago*, where he, moſt certainly, did not reduce it to practice. The expedition which he commanded did not prove ſo ſucceſsful to his country as to himſelf; not that I mean to doubt his zeal for the public ſervice, if unfavourable events had not co-operated to fruſtrate it's deſigns. But ſo knowing as the Commodore is declared to be in the tranſactions of the Eaſt-India Company and their ſervants, he could not be ignorant of the general idea which prevails in *Leaden-hall-ſtreet* and elſewhere, when an homeward-bound Indiaman makes the port of *Liſbon*. It could not be, as the event proved, the common hopes of contraband gain which led this officer thither, though he ſeems to have been influenced by a *ſpecies of ſmuggling*, of

Parliament poſſeſſed a greater number of them:—Public Corruption would then be leſs ſuſpected, and their ſupport or oppoſition would be a more deciſive

which he was not ſuſpected. In his official letter to Government, on his capture of the Dutch Indiamen, the Commodore mentions that he himſelf ſteered his ſhip into the Bay, where the objects of his purſuit were moored in imaginary ſecurity. But in approaching the ſhores of *Portugal*, he had reſigned the ſteerage to a more pleaſing pilot;—*Cupid* governed the helm, and guided his amorous prow through the waves of the *Tagus*.

The bold and ſevere epithets, with which this gentleman has frequently branded, in parliament, the conduct of Admiral Keppel on the famous 27th of July, muſt be in the recollection of every reader. On that unfortunate buſineſs there has been, though I think unjuſtly, ſome variety of public ſentiments, and he ſtood alone only in the mode of declaring his opinion on the ſubject: but it required a conſiſtency of confidence peculiar

decisive criterion as to the merits or demerits of any Minister. Such men are the real representatives of the people; and their voice may ever be

culiar to his character, to continue the poignant severity of his criticism on Lord Howe's late expedition for the relief of *Gibraltar*, and at the moment when the representative wisdom of his country was preparing to dignify that noble commander's laurels with the grateful tribute of sincere applause.

The Commodore is, however, a brave, intelligent officer, and possesses a masculine understanding, a persevering spirit, and a considerable share of general information. As a public speaker, he is blunt and bold, with a ready command and force of expression; but his energy too often rises into violence, and what he fancies to be plain speaking is, frequently, little less than rude severity. But in all situations, on the quarter-deck of a ship or in the House of Commons, in public or private, at least, *previous to his late nuptials*, his constant song has ever been,—"*I care for nobody, no, not I,—if nobody cares for me.*"

con-

conſidered as the voice of the people. There appears to be a great deal of unconſtitutional buſineſs in the mode of electing the greater part of the repreſentative Burgeſſes; and the Houſe of Commons will never be reſtored to it's former dignity, till the preſent ſtate of repreſentation is purged of it's degenerate humours, and appears in the awful form of renovated virtue *.

G— — — B— —.

MANKIND, in general, have a falſe idea of military valour.—Courage is continually repreſented as

* The ſuppoſed author of the foregoing obſervations is well known to be very condeſcending

as a ſpecies of deſpair, and death is almoſt ſuppoſed to have the ſame charms for the brave as it is ſometimes found to have for the wretched; whereas death in itſelf is neither pleaſant nor glorious, and the reſolution to die betrays a weak rather than a magnanimous ſpirit.

True valour does not conſiſt in the contempt of life, but in a ſtrength of

deſcending in his enquiries concerning the private life of every one who may be ſeen in the circle of his acquaintance; and that his memory ſeldom fails him in the moſt minute articles of domeſtic hiſtory. A rare example of inaccuracy, however, has now eſcaped him. He certainly did not know that his reſpectable country gentleman's principal eſtate lies within the precincts of a *capital Brewhouſe* in *Whitecroſs-ſtreet*, near *Cripplegate*.

mind

mind which, at the call of duty, urges us to expoſe ourſelves to the moſt imminent danger of loſing it: and this mental vigour, ſo far from annihilating the fear of death, ſuppoſes it's exiſtence, and derives it's principal merit from becoming ſuperior to it. Many inſtances of courage, which have called forth the aſtoniſhment of mankind, have often proceeded from that extremity of peril which portends almoſt a certain deſtruction: at ſuch an alarming period, the deſire of life operates upon a man with ſuch invigorating influence, that he collects all his ſtrength to make one daring effort, and boldly encounters the moſt frowning danger, as the only chance of obtaining preſervation. On ſuch acts of valour

lour the world has often laviſhed it's renown, without reflecting, that the man, who runs through flames, when there is no other way to eſcape from death, is actuated by the ordinary feelings of nature; and that the weakeſt animal, when driven to a certain extremity, will turn upon the ſtrongeſt.

There are two paſſions which ſeem to influence the conduct of every brave commander. The love of glory is one; and, being proud of the ſentiment, he unfolds it to public obſervation. The deſire of one day enjoying, in peace and tranquillity, the fruits of his ambition, is the other; but not partaking the preſent activity of his mind, he keeps it ſe-

cret

cret from the world, and endeavours ſometimes even to hide it from himſelf. Some military characters have, indeed, appeared to be fond of war and camps to the cloſe of a long life;—who ſeemed not to wiſh for peace to the world, or repoſe to themſelves. But the preference to ſuch a life is not natural to civilized man, and muſt ariſe from rooted habits of education, a ſtrange ferocity of temper, or thoſe neceſſities which demand the profits, together, perhaps, with the pride that loves the power, of an important command.

The refinement of the preſent age has ſmoothed the brow of war, and ſtrengthened the aſſociation of humanity and courage. Poliſhed manners

ners are now become an essential part of the military character. Without adopting the gallant follies of chivalry, the modern soldier is equally qualified to encounter the dangers of war, and to embellish the delights of peace *.

E——

* If I were not indubitably certain that these observations had been written before the unfortunate capture of this officer in America, I should have suspected them to have arisen from an humane effort towards his justification. At the moment of publication they may, perhaps, appear as a kind of prophetic apology.

The leading feature of this General's character is vanity. It has predominated in every action of his life; it led him equally to contrive and conduct that idle piece of extravagance the *Fête Champêtre*, and to accept, with such eager obedience, the command of the northern expedition in America. It is his very nature to be continually aiming at

éclat;

Edward Gibbon

E—— G——, Eſq;

WHEN that ardent love of ſcience, which inſpires an indefatigable zeal in the purſuit of it, is united to independent fortune, there is

éclat; and when he cannot exert his ſword, he wags his tongue or employs his pen. If the laurels of war are beyond his reach, he will ſtrive to cull a twig of bay on the theatre. Previous to the evacuation of *Boſton*, the muſe of the General had prepared a tragedy to be performed, as a relaxation from the toils of diſcipline, by ſome of the Britiſh officers and ſoldiers, in whom he had diſcovered a genius for theatrical exhibition. The piece was named The *Siege of Boſton*, and was attended with a *denouement*, of which neither the author, performers, or audience, had the leaſt expectation. At the moment when a crowded houſe was impatient for the ſhow, the rebels opened a battery of heavy cannon

is good reaſon to expect ſome production of equal utility and perfection.

The

cannon againſt the town. The audience, who thought the diſcharge of artillery, which they heard, to be a prelude to the play, gave the warlike ſounds every mark of their applauſe; and when one of the performers entered upon the ſtage, in great hurry and agitation, to tell them that the ſiege was begun in good earneſt, they conſidered him as performing his part in the piece, and gave him alſo the moſt ample teſtimony of their approbation. It was not long, however, before the enemies balls gave a new and unexpected turn to the tragedy of the evening.

Every one is acquainted with the diſaſter which befel the General at a ſubſequent period, when he commanded the northern army in America. The judgment which I have formed of his conduct on that occaſion is taken from the defence which he publiſhed, and the former opinions of his preſent friends. In the firſt I find a flimſy web of fruitleſs

The man of letters, whoſe chief object is gain, and to whom fame is but

labour; and in the latter, a large portion of ſevere reprehenſion, animated ridicule, and unreſerved contempt: nevertheleſs, inſtead of writing with the calm dignity of conſcious innocence, for the due period of juſtification, it was into the arms of theſe men, who had, in the moſt public manner, degraded his military ſkill, doubted the humanity of his character, ſcoffed at his talents, and made his official letters a ſubject of the moſt poignant ridicule, that he threw himſelf for protection. But the ſilent expectation of juſtice might have too long delayed the conſolatory pleaſure which would ariſe to the ſelf-applauding orator, from the pomp of deſcription, the energy of defence, and the brilliance of recrimination.

To determine the merit of any character, the whole of a man's life muſt be taken together, and a fair examination made of it's aggregate good and evil. There was a time when I poſſeſſed the hopes, though they were but trembling ones, that the daring wound given

but a ſecondary motive, whatever abilities or integrity he may poſſeſs, will, to-day, be impelled by neceſſity to hurry on towards the end of his work, and, to-morrow, perhaps, overcome by laſſitude, may be found ſlumbering beſide it. Whatever liberality of ſentiment may adorn his breaſt who enters upon the profeſſion of an author, he will ſoon catch the

given by this Officer to the Conſtitution of his country, at the election for *Preſton*, already well known and recorded, with the conſequent fines, ſentence of diſhonour in the Court of King's Bench, would have been, in ſome degree, repaired by a courſe of active and ſucceſsful ſervice againſt the powers of rebellion. But, alas! thoſe powers, though they found him a weak opponent in the field, give him all the applauſe he can deſire for his latter conduct in the Senate: by that conduct he has alſo riſen to be Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's forces in Ireland.

general ſpirit of thoſe who labour for a price, of doing no more than the price abſolutely demands.

Far happier, nay, among the happieſt is his lot, to whom nature has imparted her beſt gifts, whoſe ſober mind is inſpired to apply them with wiſdom, and on whom fortune has beſtowed the ſecurity of independence. His genius, poſſeſſing every means of gratification, may purſue it's pleaſing labours without a fear of interruption or wearineſs; and if the languid moment ſhould, by chance, overtake it's powers, it can command, at once, the reſtorative relaxation. Beneath his own bowers, and in all the eaſe of golden leiſure, the happy ſtudent exerts the energies

of

of a vigorous and accompliſhed mind. From the firſt outline of his compoſition to the final poliſh, he poſſeſſes a ſtrength of thought unimpaired, a ſpirit of enquiry undiſturbed, and a brilliance of imagination unobſcured. The life of ſuch a man muſt paſs on in the moſt pleaſing tranquillity:—his mind, continually employed on objects moſt worthy of it's attention, is not only free from the pains of indolence, and the repentance of falſe purſuits, but is engaged in that kind of ennobling activity which promotes contentment. Some anxious moments may, indeed, intrude upon him. His ambition may be great,—it may be to inſtruct the preſent and future ages of the world. It is

a noble ambition,—and will be ſatisfied.

Whoever enters upon the arduous office of dealing forth inſtruction to mankind, in whatever mode his genius may inſpire him to perform it, muſt be ill qualified for the taſk, if he does not look beyond the ſhort period of his own day. But the hiſtorian, beneath whoſe pen former ages have again revived, and again paſſed away, looks forward to the lateſt annals of time for the duration of his fame.——Mr. G—— cannot be accuſed of vain ambition, ſhould he hope to be the *claſſic* of every future age *.

G———

* This pre-eminent Hiſtorian, amid the higheſt honours of cotemporary fame, may enjoy

G——— F——.

TO a man, whoſe mind is not wholly loſt to every noble and generous ſentiment, the evils which fall upon others, by his means, are more

enjoy all the ſatisfaction which can ariſe from a proſpect of the moſt ſplendid and laſting honours of poſthumous reputation. It requires no prophetic ſpirit to affirm, with confidence, that his works will be read and admired while the language of his country is underſtood, and any love of ſcience remains in the world.

Mr. G——'s life, from his early youth, has been an uninterrupted ſcene of curious reſearch and elegant ſtudy. On his return from the tour of Europe, he reſided with his father in Hampſhire, where his ſtudies were ſo intenſe, that even the neceſſary meals were conſidered by him as vexatious interruptions: —while the old gentleman, equally alarmed

more deeply affecting than his own immediate misfortunes. As the partakers for the conſtitution of his ſon, took as much and as fruitleſs pains to lead him into ſome degree of diſſipation, as ſo many other parents have done to reclaim their children from it. His juvenile imagination was troubled with an irregular enthuſiaſm, which, though it deluded him into ſome ſingularities of conduct, has ſince been brought into due bounds by the reaſon and experience of ſucceeding years. Whether it was during his reſidence at the Univerſity, or immediately upon his quitting it, I do not remember, but at one or other of theſe periods he actually and ſeriouſly embraced the Roman Catholic Religion; but, as it ſometimes happens to diſappointed converts, he has ſince returned to the external profeſſion of the church he had forſaken, with very little appearance of zeal for any national faith. In his maſterly Hiſtory of the Decline of the Roman Empire, he has been thought, by many learned and orthodox divines, to have adopted and defended principles which are not only unfavourable to, but which ſtrike at, the very foundation of chriſtianity; and an

hoſt

takers of his calamity are more or leſs remote, the ſympathetic pang is more or leſs poignant. I cannot, in truth, conceive how any one, who, by his folly, his vices, or his crimes, has deſtroyed the fair expectation of

hoſt of polemical writers have taken up their pens againſt him. He has replied with his uſual ability, and appeals to the good ſenſe of mankind to decide between them. With all his powers in the cloſet, he is ſilent in the Senate; though I have ſeen a ſpeech of his delivery to the electors of *Petersfield*, for which place he was a candidate in the earlier part of his life, that promiſed the reputation of a ſplendid orator.—Mr. G——'s firſt and almoſt juvenile work was an eſſay upon a literary ſubject, which was written by him with equal elegance, as it was afterwards publiſhed, both in his own and the French language—a promiſing ſpecimen of the great abilities he has ſince diſcovered, and a fore-runner of that fame which has given him an elevated ſtation among the beſt hiſtorians of any age or country.

his

his children, and involved them in diſtreſs and ruin, can live to ſee the miſery he has occaſioned, and to hear the reproaches that he deſerves.

The puniſhment of attainder and forfeiture, which the wiſdom of our laws has annexed to crimes of a certain magnitude, was contrived to deter the villain who might not be alarmed for himſelf, from committing an offence which would involve his family and children in the diſgrace and downfal of his guilt. This judicial regulation is founded in an accurate knowledge of human nature, and has operated in a manner highly beneficial to public ſecurity. It is not, indeed, every eye that can ſee beyond the preſumptive injuſtice of

ſuch

ſuch an arrangement; nay, the firſt ſuperficial view of it muſt give a ſhock to humanity:—but ſuch is the alarming nature of certain crimes, that it becomes the indiſpenſable duty of ſupreme power to uſe every means that human wiſdom can ſuggeſt to prevent them. But Britiſh laws love to temper juſtice with mercy, and the innocent are not always left to deplore the miſeries derived from the guilt of their anceſtors. When the ſeverity of example may be ſuppoſed to have had its due effect, and the blameleſs child proves, by a virtuous conduct, that he abhors his father's crime, the power that puniſhed is glad to do away diſhonour, and to reſtore him to the full enjoyment of forfeited poſſeſſions.

This

This honourable General, having ſerved his country with zeal and attachment, deſerves the reſtorative favour of his Sovereign *.

Lord

* The fate of G——— F——'s father is univerſally known. He died upon the block, boaſting of that treaſon for which he ſuffered. The ſon, deprived of his family honours and fortune, applied himſelf to the law, which he afterwards quitted for a military appointment during the laſt war. Having ſerved in the auxiliary army ſent by Great-Britain to Portugal, he obtained the rank of General in the Portugueſe ſervice, with a command and government, and remained ſome years in that ſituation; but, at the ſame time, did not neglect his intereſts in Scotland, where a regard for his name, and pity for his misfortunes, ſecured to him a ſeat in Parliament. He had been long in the habits of ſtrict friendſhip with Mr. Wedderburne, and other riſing favourites of miniſterial leaders; and he at length obtained a double regiment in the Britiſh ſervice, and the

Lord Viſcount M— —.

THERE are certain foibles which have been thought even to add grace to youth, and to be the forerunner of great and valuable qualities. Some men have been ſo partial to this principle, that the grave diſpoſitions of their children have not

the reſtoration of his family fortunes. The General was a very ſingular *Scotchman*; for with all the art, perſeverance, and intriguing ſpirit of the *North*, he poſſeſſed a taſte for the elegant ſplendor, and evident diſpoſitions to the unthrifty generoſity, of the *South*. He is lately dead, without leaving behind him any proofs whatever of thoſe narrow habits of mind which are generally conſidered as the vices of his country.

only

only been diſcouraged, but become objects of parental diſpleaſure *.

Youth has been aſſerted to be the fever of reaſon, which throws off the peccant humours of unformed character, and leaves the rightful guide of

* The preſent Sir G——— P— T——r, when he was at the Univerſity, manifeſted the moſt apparent ſymptoms of that contracted and avaricious ſpirit which has ſince pervaded his whole character and conduct.—His father, affected at ſome particular trait of the young gentleman's diſpoſition, gave him a Bank-note of 500l. and commanded him not to ſee his face till he had ſpent the whole of it. Mr. T——r obeyed the ſtern command, and in about a week returned to the paternal preſence.—"Well Greg." ſaid the old gentleman, "have you got rid of all the money I gave you already?" and, on being anſwered in the affirmative, was curious to know the means he

of life in the poſſeſſion of uninterrupted energy and vigour †. This is not a mode of thinking which ſuits with the knowledge I have obtained of the human heart. There is an eſſential difference between pedantic and ſober youth; between a prematurity of good ſenſe which leads to early wiſdom, and the unnatural growth of thoſe ſelfiſh and narrow

he had adopted; when Greg. replied, that he had given *twenty-five ſhillings* for a pair of *Woodſtock breeches*, and as for the reſt, he had laid it out in the purchaſe of *Bank-ſtock*.

† It is ſaid to be a common enquiry with a Dutchman, when a match is propoſed to his daughter, *if the young man has eat his cheeſe*; or, to uſe the Engliſh phraſe, if he has ſown his wild oats.—What ſpark of a youthful *Mynheer's* vivacity ſhould be extinguiſhed to qualify him for the buſineſs of matrimony, is beyond my feeble powers of conjecture.

only been diſcouraged, but become objects of parental diſpleaſure *.

Youth has been aſſerted to be the fever of reaſon, which throws off the peccant humours of unformed character, and leaves the rightful guide of

* The preſent Sir G——— P— T——r, when he was at the Univerſity, manifeſted the moſt apparent ſymptoms of that contracted and avaricious ſpirit which has ſince pervaded his whole character and conduct.—His father, affected at ſome particular trait of the young gentleman's diſpoſition, gave him a Bank-note of 500l. and commanded him not to ſee his face till he had ſpent the whole of it. Mr. T——r obeyed the ſtern command, and in about a week returned to the paternal preſence.—" Well Greg." ſaid the old gentleman, " have you got rid of all the money I gave you already?" and, on being anſwered in the affirmative, was curious to know the means he

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vices

vices which cannot be forgiven when they are the offspring of a long and fretful experience.

That there are many examples of early reformation from the moſt alarming follies of youth, cannot be denied. The careleſs are known to become attentive; prodigality is ſometimes ſucceeded by prudence; and even the indolent have been awakened into induſtry. But theſe alterations of character are not ſufficiently common, or obvious, to conſole a reflecting parent who ſees his child under an immoral or idle influence. That virtue which depends upon a return from actual vice, or that wiſdom which is to owe it's exiſtence to a divorce from folly, is of uncertain expectation.

expectation. At all events they muſt, both of them, derive their birth from the painful throes of lamenting experience, and be long endangered by the menaces of a relapſe.

The human mind is of a pliant nature, and takes its ſhape and colour from the operation of external circumſtances: is it not, therefore, much better to place it at once, and, if poſſible, to preſerve it, in the line of excellence, than to let it make it's wild ſhoots unreſtrained, and thereby render the ordinary difficulties of bringing it into due form, almoſt inſuperable, from the unyielding ſtrength into which it has grown by being ſuffered to luxuriate without interruption?

Is it poſſible that this young and noble Lord can be conſidered with leſs reſpect and eſteem by any rational being, for the firſt fruits he has yielded of an active, penetrating, and philoſophic mind? The future utility and honour of his life does not depend upon any ſpeculative phantom, fallacious hope, or ſpecious prophecy; but on the ſolid baſis of actual proof and public experience. The father of ſuch a ſon has a ſource of conſolation for his declining years, that might anſwer to the offering of univerſal congratulation ‡.

F— —

‡ This young nobleman, when he was little more than of age, publiſhed a very ingenious and ſcientific Eſſay upon the coinage of money; which was followed by a Treatiſe on electricity. He has alſo made ſome very

uſeful

F— —P—, Eſq.

IS it poſſible, that, at this enlightened period, there can exiſt a man, in theſe kingdoms, whoſe mind is in the ſecret poſſeſſion of thoſe principles, that, in the earlier part of this century, invited a ſucceſſor of the Stuart family to reaim at the poſſeſſion of the Britiſh Crown?—A more than Jewiſh igno-

uſeful experiments towards rendering buildings incombuſtible. He poſſeſſes a very acute, inveſtigating mind, and promiſes a life of no common utility. He ſometimes ſpeaks in the Houſe of Commons, but with a violence of action and expreſſion that is by no means graceful, and may tend, perhaps, to leſſen the real force of his ſentiments and opinions. This is, however, an imperfection which experience may ſoon obliterate.

rance, obduracy, and infatuation, muſt be neceſſary to keep alive the moſt diſtant expectation of a political Meſſiah from the remaining branch of that devoted generation.

Sampson Gideon

Sir S— — G— — —.

IT is no unfavourable token of private and tranquil worth, when the world is ſilent upon the character and conduct of any perſon whoſe ſituation and fortune hold him forth to the public attention.—Virtue muſt be attended with circumſtances of general notice to become an object for general approbation.—The fame of domeſtic excellence ſeldom extends beyond

beyond the immediate circle of it's effects: ſuch, however, is the diſpoſition of mankind, that private evil is not ſuffered to remain in the verge of it's exertions, but is dragged forth, without mercy, to public view, and is at once condemned by the eager ſentence of public judgment.

This honourable Baronet is amiable in his manners; and, I truſt, from the ſmall ſhare of popular notice which he ſeems to attract, as he glides through life, that he has done nothing to diſgrace it*.

R——

*Sir S—— is the ſon of a Jew well known in his day.—He was a Stock-broker of great eminence, and was intimately connected with the Miniſters of his time, as an agent for loans and other national ſupplies.—He brod

R—— P—, Eſq.

THE general opinion of mankind, which, with regard to the events of the day, is always founded in facts and circumſtances of public notoriety,

up his ſon in the Chriſtian faith, educated him at Eton, and while he was at that college procured him the title he now poſſeſſes. But though he had, many years previous to his death, ſeceded, in a certain degree, from the Jewiſh Communion, and lived in an unreſtrained freedom of enjoyment, he died in his original profeſſion, and the Synagogue to which he had formerly belonged, was noticed in his will by a very ample teſtimony of his remembrance.—The honourable Baronet who inherited his immenſe fortune, has not diſtinguiſhed himſelf by any deviation from the ordinary courſe of ſplendid life. He was choſen Knight of the Shire for the county of Cambridge, but did not retain ſufficient

notoriety, is not diſpoſed to give way in favour of particular exceptions. Thus, from the ample proofs of thoſe horrid iniquities by which enormous wealth has been ſometimes obtained in *India*, every man who returns from thence, in any degree of affluence, has the ſame mode of acquiring it attributed to him. Particular envy aids the ſeverity of general condemnation, and every perſon who arrives in his native country poſſeſſed of riches which he has acquired in the Eaſtern

ficient influence to ſecure a ſecond election. With his wealth, however, he could not be ſuppoſed to want a ſeat in Parliament, where he gives his ſilent vote in ſupport of miniſterial meaſures.—He is very fond of frequenting royal levees, and is ſaid to be highly flattered with the ſmiling notice which a conſtance attendance at St. James's never fails to receive.

India, finds himſelf the immediate object of the moſt cruel and undiſtinguiſhing ſuſpicion.

That the moſt horrid enormities have been committed, from a luſt of gold, in that diſtant part of the Britiſh dominions, has been proved by ſuch irrefragable evidence, as to be notorious to the whole kingdom. To prevent abuſes ſo horrid in themſelves, productive of ſuch political diſadvantage, and ſo diſhonourable to the national character, will, I truſt, become the patriot and chriſtian work of parliamentary wiſdom.

It does not occur to my remembrance, that the honourable gentleman, from the circumſtances of whoſe life

life I have been led to make theſe curſory obſervations, has ever been accuſed of thoſe unbounded peculations, and that flagitious traffic, by which ſome of his cotemporaries have ſprung, as it were, at once, into enormous affluence †.

Sir W— —

† This gentleman is among the lucky few who owe their fortune to ſome accidental circumſtance, which, though it might promiſe nothing, has led to every thing. Mr. P— was bred to the church, had taken Deacon's Orders, and was a curate, or at leaſt reſident, on the ſea-coaſt of Devonſhire, when Admiral *Boſcawen*, who was bound for the Eaſt-Indies, put into *Torbay* on account of contrary winds. That officer, whoſe ſkill and bravery were never queſtioned, was not very remarkable for pious diſpoſitions; however, he took it into his head to come aſhore, and go to church;—Mr. P— preached, and the Admiral invited him to dinner, and was ſo pleaſed with him both in the pulpit and out

Sir W—— L——.

WHAT numbers of patriot people have, in theſe times, ruined themſelves to ſave their country; or, rather, how kindly has faction adminiſtered to feed the vanity, and empty the pockets, of ſhallow-pated

out of it, that he perſuaded the young clergyman to accompany him to India. On his arrival there, Mr. P— found in his patron a moſt zealous friend; and laying aſide the gown, which, as a Deacon, he was at liberty to do without ſcandal, he found himſelf placed in a line of employment that promiſed fortune to induſtry and abilities. Mr. P— poſſeſſed them both, and exerted them in ſuch a manner, that he, at length, became a Governor of one of the principal ſettlements in India, and is ſince returned to England with the ample means of affluent and ſumptuous life.

men!

men! By the ladder of petty ambition, ſuch perſons have riſen, not to real conſequence, but to general notice; and, perhaps, their pride might find entire ſatisfaction in the temporary puffs of daily publications, and think the applauſe of thoſe who praiſe but to deceive them, as ſufficient fame. Any external parade of office, any trifling titles of diſtinction, any local precedence, keeps up the fervour of their zeal, renders them unconſcious of their preſent folly, and reſtrains their thoughts from thoſe future diſtreſſes which muſt be the fruits of it.

Self-love, in weak minds, is a coquettiſh paſſion that loves to contemplate itſelf in every glaſs, how baſe ſoever

ſoever the flattery which preſents it. Whatever promiſes perſonal importance it fondly purſues, nor wants more ſolid proofs of conſequence than its own complacent regard, and the impatient gaze of an idle crowd. But ſelf-love, with all its pleaſures, is not without its mortifications; and tho' the latter may be baffled for a time, the ſhock will come at laſt, and lay its gawdy fabric in the duſt.

I ſhould be glad to aſk our worthy Knight, how long the honey-moon of patriotiſm laſted?—At what period the weight of city honour began to wring his ſhoulders?—What eaſe he found from the expectation of future dignities?—and whether the chain of gold which ſo tickled his heart, could keep

keep repentance out of it?—I was about to proceed with another interrogatory;—but I will not disgrace the name of public virtue, by offering to the man who finds preferment in being the tool of a faction, a question concerning it ‡.

The

‡ Sir W—— was bred to the bar, married a lady of considerable fortune, entered into the train of Mr. Wilkes's patriotism, was elected an Alderman of London, has since been Sheriff and Lord Mayor, and is, at this time, a representative in Parliament for that city. His fortune, according to his own public declarations, has sustained some injury in what he is pleased to call the cause of Liberty; and he may, perhaps, possess some hopes of repairing it, by, one day, succeeding to the warm birth which his patron, Mr. Wilkes, after all his toils and troubles, has contrived to secure for himself.

In whatever light Sir W—— L—— may be generally considered, in regard to his abilities,

The Right Hon. W—— C——.

ACCORDING to the opinion of a very ingenious and admired writer of the preſent age,—whenever any

lities, wiſdom, or public virtue—whether he poſſeſſes all or none of them, I do moſt ſeriouſly affirm, that he deſerves the eſteem of the people of England. The ſervice he has rendered them was not the ſervice of a day, or of a tranſient period,—I truſt that future generations will experience the benefits of it. Sir W—— L—— put an effectual ſtop to the enormous practices of bribery and corruption, which had ſet all law at defiance till he became a candidate for the city of *Worceſter*. A very long and expenſive canvaſs had already been carried on, when one of the candidates ſuddenly diſappeared, bought off, as it was ſuppoſed, by the other, who now waited with impatience for the day of election, when he expected to be choſen without

any one ſubject of a free ſtate is induced

without oppoſition. But on the morning of that day, Sir W——, ſolicited by the previous but ſecret invitation of a reſpectable body of voters, arrives at W———, harangues the people, tells them he is come to offer his ſervices upon conſtitutional principles, and that upon no other will he be elected: that bribery and corruption ſhould not place him in the Houſe of Commons; nor ſhould his opponent profit by thoſe means, if he had employed them.

The Knight kept his word, and inſiſted that every perſon who preſented himſelf to poll ſhould ſwear to the legal eligibility of his vote. A ſcene of moſt unexpected confuſion enſued; many turned from the poll-books when the oath was tendered to them, and others publicly returned the money they had received; but, notwithſtanding the fear of legal puniſhment and public diſgrace cauſed no ſmall diminution in the number of adverſe votes, Sir W—— failed in his enterpriſe, and his opponent, Mr. R—, was elected.

It may, perhaps, be argued, that the Knight

duced to exclaim, what is my country to

Knight was a mere election adventurer, who, having no money to ſpend, made a novel attempt to gain a ſeat in Parliament by the ſole aid of the Statute againſt Bribery and Corruption. His motives are to himſelf; but the effects of his conduct have been beneficial to his country; and I will ever maintain, that his having brought back parliamentary election to conſtitutional principles, deſerves the gratitude of the people. Since that period private fortunes have not been ſpent in acquiring ſeats in Parliament, and times of election no longer exhibit thoſe ſcenes of depravity and licentiouſneſs, with all their ſucceeding ill effects, which diſgraced our country, and tended to the ruin of our conſtitution; while ſuch as have dared to evade the law by corrupt practices, have been ſeverely puniſhed, with the boroughs themſelves which they hoped, by ſuch illegal means, to repreſent. The dignity of Parliament is indebted to Sir W—— L——; public and private virtue owe him acknowledgements; while the laws enacted for regulating elections have been

to me,—the ruin of that country is at hand *.

Without entering into an examination of refined opinions, where the writer, for the ſake of giving a brilliant conciſeneſs to his expreſſion, may narrow the extent of his own meaning, it may be curious to conſider what would be the opinion of

been rouſed by him from their dormant ſtate, and directed to their natural objects and legal operations. Every man, therefore, who poſſeſſes a regard for the public, muſt feel a willing gratitude to any one, whoever or whatever he may be, who has rendered ſuch eſſential ſervice to the conſtitution of his country.

* J. J. Rouſſeau has expreſſed himſelf to this purpoſe:—"*Sitot que quelqu'un dit des affaires de l'état, que m'importe, on doit compter que l'état eſt perdue.*"

ſuch a ſpeculative politician, if he were to enquire into the preſent ſtate of patriotiſm in a certain country, where freedom is the boaſt, as it is the birth-right, of every inhabitant.

The aſſembly of the people, in their repreſentative capacity, would be the firſt object of his curious examination; and having informed himſelf of it's conſtitution, properties, and power, the ends for which it is aſſembled, and the objects which engage it's deliberations, we will ſuppoſe him to be an occaſional witneſs to it's proceedings. Now it may ſo happen, for it too often happens, that, on the firſt time of his admiſſion, the buſineſs of the day is obliged to wait till ſomething more

than

than a thirteenth part of the whole body is aſſembled. He expreſſes his aſtoniſhment at ſuch a circumſtance, and is told, that, on days of common buſineſs, the Houſe is, in general, but thinly attended. He cannot conceive what is meant by *common* buſineſs, when it muſt relate to the intereſts of a great empire; and enquires what may be the particular engagements of ſo great a majority of the repreſentatives of the people who are abſent. He is anſwered, that many are employed in their own private concerns, or are purſuing their particular amuſements; that others are diſabled by the debauch of the preceding night, while there is no ſmall number of them who think their public duty performed by a par-

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trial attendance to give a ſilent and predetermined vote on very particular occaſions. The impreſſions which he muſt receive from ſuch very unexpected information, diſcourage him from employing any further conſideration about a State which ſeems to be ſo ſhamefully diſregarded by thoſe who are bound, both by intereſt and obligation, to watch over and ſupport it. He is perſuaded, however, to make another trial, and is introduced once more to the Senate, on a day when ſome great point of national proſperity and freedom is to be the ſubject for deliberation. The important buſineſs begins, with all due ſolemnity, in the preſence, perhaps, of one third of the whole body; but he is aſſured, that many more will

will arrive when they have qualified themſelves, by a good dinner, to ſuſtain the fatigues of the evening. He now liſtens, with all due attention, to the ſucceſſive ſpeakers on both ſides of the queſtion. Being acquainted with the nature of popular conventions, and the common emotions of public zeal, he is not ſurpriſed at the occaſional diſturbance and interruption which ariſe from different quarters of the aſſembly: but when he perceives that one orator, departing boldly from the ſubject before him, deals forth the moſt virulent invectives againſt particular men, and bodies of men; while another, by his flaſhes of wit and turns of humour, his ſtories and his tales, keeps the whole aſſembly in

continued peals of laughter; he is unable to conceive that the matter in debate can poſſibly involve the moſt eſſential intereſts of the nation, or that he actually beholds a period when the moſt important intereſts of a great people are in ſuſpenſe. He cannot, alſo, but obſerve the fluctuating ſtate of the aſſembly, even at the very moment when the moſt intereſting arguments are preſented to it's attention; and, on enquiring what contingent national buſineſs occaſions the frequent exits and entrances of ſo many individual members, he is told, that while ſome are gone to take a beef-ſteak, or a bottle of wine, or a diſh of coffee, or a nap, or to play a game at billiards, others return from the ſame ſpecies of relaxation

and

and refreſhment. He is not now in a ſituation to reflect, but to obſerve; and he is informed, that ſeveral pairs of gentlemen, who, after whiſpering together for a moment, occaſionally quit the chamber, are gone home, by mutual agreement, as, being predetermined to take different ſides, they will only leſſen the numbers of a diviſion, without weakening the actual force of either party. He does not comprehend the meaning of the word *party*, and he is recommended to wait with patience, when the buſineſs before him will ſoon unfold ſome very notorious operations of it. At length, when the debate draws towards a concluſion, he obſerves, with infinite aſtoniſhment, the ſudden entrance of no ſmall number of ſenators, whoſe

faces he has not yet ſeen, and who come to give their aid towards the determination of a moſt important national concern, without having heard one of the many ſpeakers who have been engaged in the diſcuſſion of it. He now begins to have ſome confuſed notion of what is underſtood by the word *party*;—the idea, however, becomes much more intelligible to him, when he perceives, that, in the act of deciſion, both ſides of the Houſe draw off from each other with the ſame unheſitating alacrity which animates the battalions of a regiment, when they are led by their reſpective commanders to different and diſtant poſitions.

The political philoſopher is ſo confounded

founded at what he has ſeen, that his mind refuſes the ſuggeſtion of any regular ideas; but having obſerved certain perſons who never quitted their places, and had taken an active part in the debate, he hopes that they, at leaſt, may be found to act upon principles that he ſhall underſtand and applaud;—but, alas! he is informed, that ſome of them are in poſſeſſion of great and profitable employments, the preſervation of which depends upon their zeal and activity; while others, who are the moſt violent againſt them, are animated by the hopes of being their ſucceſſors, if they can, by any means, remove them from their reſpective ſituations.

Oppreſſed

Oppreſſed and diſappointed by the experience and contradictions of the day, he returns home, and when he acquaints his landlady with the event of the public deliberations, as a matter of intereſting information, his vexation is encreaſed by her calm declaration, that ſhe could have told him how the buſineſs would have ended, before it was begun; and, in conſequence of his enquiries, the good woman, in very plain terms, completes his knowledge of political party.

The next morning he takes his breakfaſt at a coffee-houſe, where the public hiſtory of the previous day is canvaſſed, and it's intrigues expoſed, with great coolneſs by ſome,

and

and much humour by others, as if it had been a ſcene of theatrical repreſentation. From thence we may ſuppoſe him on a viſit to a lady of faſhion, whom he finds in all the petulance and fretfulneſs of diſappointment; and while he is oppreſſed by a friendly ſympathy for ſome ſuppoſed domeſtic calamity, he is informed, that ſhe is the moſt unfortunate woman alive, for that her aſſembly, on the previous evening, had been almoſt deſtitute of men, on account of the odious buſineſs of the nation; which, as it does not engroſs one half of the national repreſentatives above five or ſix times in a winter, ſeemed to have been contrived by ſome malicious ſpell, on purpoſe to interrupt the arrangements of *her*

night.

night. He abruptly takes his leave, reſolving, without delay, to quit a country where public indifference or private intereſt have infected a whole people. He is, however, told by a a friend, who wiſhes to prolong his ſtay, that, intereſted as public men may be, it is conſiſtent with, and even neceſſary to the forwarding of their intereſts, to promote and preſerve general happineſs; and that where civil liberty is enjoyed in the utmoſt perfection, and the courſe of public juſtice is uncorrupted, it is an idle refinement, eſpecially in ſuch an age as that wherein we live, to expreſs our diſſatisfactions, if the leading official characters ſhould not be actuated by the pureſt motives of patriot virtue: that the party which oppoſes the meaſures

meaſures of Adminiſtration, whatever may be it's views, is of conſiderable uſe in watching the conduct of men in power, and checking their irregular deſigns and diſpoſitions: and, laſtly, that the apparent indifference to the public welfare, which ſhocks him ſo much, in the more general orders of the community, proceeds from the fulneſs and ſecurity of enjoyment, rather than any effeminacy of ſpirit, or inſenſibility to the moſt rational bleſſings of life. But our patriot philoſopher cannot be made to believe that public zeal can be dormant beneath public lukewarmneſs and private luxury, and boldly tells his friend, that his confidence of ſecurity is fallacious, and that, as for himſelf, he is reſolved inſtantly to

quit

quit a people who muſt be on the very verge of ruin, and whoſe downfal will be more calamitous, as their total defiance of danger will prevent them from taking any precautions againſt the fatal and approaching hour of their deſtruction *.

Sir

* The foregoing pages afford an example of ſevere and pointed pleaſantry which is not often to be found in the text of theſe curious volumes. The Right Hon. Gentleman whoſe name precedes it, has, ſince the period of it's original compoſition, been choſen to preſide at the aſſembly which appears to be the object of ſuch poignant, and, in ſome particular inſtances, of ſuch well-applied alluſion. He was bred to the bar, where, I believe, he was conſidered as a young practitioner of conſiderable expectations; and at the cloſe of the laſt war, being appointed one of the Commiſſioners to inſpect the German accounts, he executed the duties of that employment with ſuch ability,

Charles Bamfylde

Sir C— B——.

THE annals of modern extravagance do not furniſh any example of a more rapid progreſs to the end of a great fortune, than has been exhibited

ability, as to merit the thanks of the Houſe of Commons. The firſt part of his parliamentary career was marked with violent oppoſition to government; and in all the agitations of the Middleſex election he was conſidered as a moſt able ſupport to the antiminiſterial powers of that notorious period. But he did not long remain in this poſition; but veered about, at once, to the Court party, followed, indeed, by the ſevere accuſations of his former friends, but conſoled by the attainment of preſent favour, and the hopes of future reward. He has been placed, if my memory does not fail me, at more than one of the public Boards; and, at the opening of the preſent Parliament, was

exhibited by this laviſh Baronet. But the ſame ſpecies of error is marked with a different degree of guilt in different men. The prodigality of vice is of a far deeper dye than the prodigality of folly. The one diſcovers a corruption of the heart, the other only a deluſion of the underſtanding. The former character loſes all external regard and attention with his fortune, and ſinks

was elected to be it's Speaker. His parliamentary knowledge is profound, and his abilities are fully adequate to the duties of the high office to which he has been advanced. But the perſonal conſequence and importance which gave ſuch a commanding dignity to *Arthur Onſlow*, and enabled him to preſerve a ſolemn and reſpectful decorum in the public proceedings beneath his controul, does not appear to have deſcended to any of his ſucceſſors.

into

into the very abyſs of contempt and deteſtation; while the latter retains a commiſerating reſpect which keeps him from deſpair, and may afford material aſſiſtance in any practicable endeavours to meliorate his preſent, or retrieve his former condition.

In the hurry of ſuch a ruin as that under my immediate contemplation, it is to be hoped that thoſe means of recovery may he found to exiſt, which are not to be expected after a more deliberate waſte of fortune. When an houſe falls on a ſudden, if the owner eſcapes without any corporal injury, he cannot be ſaid to be entirely undone. Such a calamity is grievous, and the injury he will ſuſtain muſt be great; but many arti-

cles of value may be dug from the ruins, which themſelves may furniſh materials for erecting a leſs ample but more ſecure habitation; while he who diſpoſes, as his wants preſs, of every moveable, and ſells at laſt the houſe itſelf, will then find himſelf without any reſource, nor have one glimmering hope to ſave him from deſpair *.

The

* It would be truly invidious, by a recital of the extraordinary and infatuated means by which he accompliſhed his undoing, to preſent an uſeleſs retroſpect at a time when this amiable Baronet is engaged in an honeſt and reſolute plan of retrieval. The city of E— — —, in whoſe vicinity his large eſtate is ſituated, have given a moſt honourable teſtimony of their regard, by a re-election of him to be their repreſentative in parliament at the time of his adverſity. Sir C— B— —'s preſent plan of private life and ſalutary œconomy

The Hon. C——— L——.

THERE is a degree of Knight-errantry in ſome men's characters that prevents their acquiring any real honour or reſpect throughout the courſe of their lives. It is neither abilities, nor rank, nor fortune, that will ſecure to any one the eſteem either of individuals or of mankind, when they are accompanied with thoſe irregular diſpoſitions on which it would mark the extremity of folly to

nomy promiſes a future and effectual arrangement of his affairs; when, I truſt, he will be reſtored to his former affluence with every advantage that can be derived from paſt experience.

depend. A ſpirit of ſenſeleſs enterprize, the unembaraſſed faculty of oppoſing general ſentiments, and the contempt of public reputation, are not qualities formed to conciliate either regard or admiration; but, on the contrary, to inſpire diſguſt, apprehenſion, and terror. I do not know in what line of life the poſſeſſor of ſuch diſpoſitions can be profitably, agreeably, or honourably employed; and I always expected, as I foretold, that * * *

* * * * * *
* * * * * *
* * * †.

Capt.

† This gentleman, as it muſt be univerſally remembered, was a very principal engine of government in the moſt iniquitous and unconſtitutional buſineſs of the Middleſex election. The purity of his intentions were then aſſerted by his friend and patron the Duke of Grafton, the Miniſter of that diſgraceful period. But, without contradicting the miniſterial declaration, I ſhall beg leave to obſerve, that the Colonel's virtues were employed by the worſt Adminiſtration that this country has known ſince the elevation of the Houſe of *Hanover* to the throne of *Great-Britain*. The gallant gentleman, however, experienced the neglect which never fails to overtake thoſe who have been the tools of a party which wants them no more. When the Sheriffs continued to addreſs their ſummons to Mr. Wilkes, as Knight of the Shire for Middleſex, Colonel L—— complained to the Houſe of Commons of the affront offered to them

Capt. J— L— —.

IT is the office of an hiſtorian to diſplay, without reſerve, the relative qualities, whatever they may be, of ſuch perſons as are connected with the period whoſe tranſactions he has undertaken to relate. If he interrupts his narration by extraneous applauſe or cenſure, he deſcends from the temperate dignity of his character in yielding to the emotions of perſonal partiality or reſentment. But,

and to himſelf, by ſuch a flagrant act of diſobedience to the Speaker's order, as well as the reſolutions of the Houſe, and demanded redreſs:—but the Miniſter diſcouraged any proceedings in the buſineſs, and left him to the conſolations of his own individual reſentment.

as

as in hiſtory perſons are relative to events, in biographical deſcription events are relative to perſons; and he who undertakes to write the life of an individual muſt not omit or deviate from the perſonal qualities of the character he is employed to pourtray. Theſe reſtraints, however, do not affect the general obſerver of mankind, who examines the paſſing characters of the world to improve himſelf rather than to inſtruct others, to exerciſe his mind, or to fix in his memory certain opinions of men and things for future and inſtantaneous application. He is content to attach the impreſſion of ſome leading prominent feature or circumſtance ſuitable to his purpoſe, without troubling himſelf with doubtful minutiæ, uſe-

leſs conjecture, or mortifying ſpeculations.

I do not wiſh to conſider this honourable gentleman in any other point of view than as an active, brave, and ſkilful officer, who does honour to the naval profeſſion *.

The

* By the artful manner in which this teſtimony to the merit of Capt. L— — is introduced by the R— — pen, it might be almoſt imagined, that the poſſibility of this work being publiſhed was, in ſome degree, foreſeen. There are private as well as public, moral as well as political, reaſons, why his Majeſty ſhould not reflect, with partial ſatisfaction, on any branch of the L— — family; and it may, perhaps, mark a ſuperiority to little prejudices that ſome of them are promoted in his ſervice.

It affords me extreme ſatisfaction, that, at the moment when this ſheet was preparing for the

The Hon. J. B———.

MANY of thoſe writers who have dubbed themſelves politicians, are very much diſpleaſed with certain official perſons whom they chuſe to call

the preſs, an account of Capt. Luttrel's late gallant exploit was delivered to the public. In a ſingle frigate he attacked a line of battle of five ſhips, conſiſting of *L'Europe*, of 36 guns, an *American* brig of 14 guns, the *Menagere*, a 64 gun two-decker, armed *en flute*, mounting on her main deck 26 long twelve-pounders, and four ſix-pounders on her quarter deck; the *Alexander* of 24 guns, and the *Dauphin* of 28 guns. He diſperſed the whole of this ſuperior force, and took the *Menagere* and *Alexander*. This event brings back to our minds the *Grenvilles*, the *Tyrrels*, and the *Foreſts*, of former wars; nor do I record it here with the vain hope of adding to the fame of the gallant officer, but to ſecure to this

call the puppets of the ſtate; nay, ſome of the more profound among them have dared to enrol the Sovereign himſelf among the number of political automatons. Though the pure and patriot ſpirit of ſuch ſcrupulous perſons may be offended with the pageantry which ſome of the wiſeſt legiſlators have thought to be requiſite to the dignity of government, they will, perhaps, give their kind permiſſion to the puppets of a Court, and allow ſome external pomp and decoration to be neceſſary to the palaces and ſtate of monarchs.

this volume one page at leaſt, which, when it meets the reader's eye, will not fail to call forth the patriot tranſports of his heart.

The

The qualifications for Court attendance are not in the firſt claſs of human virtues. The greater part of thoſe who compoſe the royal train, have little more to do than to dreſs well, to walk upright, to bow obſequious, to ſhape an humble ſmile, and to be ſilent *.

Lord

* This is no unpleaſant picture of a petty courtier. But it is not only the duty of this honourable Gentleman to dreſs well himſelf,—it is his office, alſo, to take care that his maſter does the ſame, in which department of his ſervice, however, he does not always ſucceed. As for the reſt of his devoirs, he performs them to admiration.

I have ever obſerved, that the gentleman who receives, throughout life, the diminutive appellation of his chriſtian name, is little more than a good-natured, eaſy, trifling character. I do not believe that the whole troop of *Tommies*, *Billies*, and *Jemmies*, can produce

Lord M——.

ACCORDING to the Chineſe proverb—"*of an hundred rich men, there is not one who is not an oppreſſor himſelf, or the ſon of an oppreſſor.*"—If this oriental opinion were

produce one perſon of real importance from among them. Great labour and perſevering reſolution can alone efface a mark which is ſtamped by concurrent and cotemporary opinion. J——y, however, is an inoffenſive, well-bred, ſolemn perſonage, who, totally deſtitute of the gift of tongues, finds a moſt happy employment in offering his daily ceremonious homage to the *Clios* and *Terpſichores* of the Opera-Houſe. It ſo happened, that his elder and younger brothers were Peers, while he ſtalked between them both an honourable Commoner. But he is, at length, raiſed to the ſame dignity, and adds another grain of ſolemnity to the Houſe of Lords.

to be applied to the characters of our weſtern world, it might be found, perhaps, to ariſe from that courſe of human affairs which is univerſal in all civilized nations, whatever may be their laws, cuſtoms, and religion; or whatever part of the globe it may be their lot to inhabit. This noble Lord, for example, is rich, which is the firſt article of the propoſition:—the queſtion naturally follows, Is he of an oppreſſive character?—Does he treat thoſe who are ſubject to him with an harſh or unreaſonable ſeverity, for the purpoſe of encreaſing his fortune?—A ready negative is at hand to ſuch a demand.—Is he, then, the ſon of a man who acquired his immenſe wealth by oppreſſive influence?—The anſwer may be of a dif-

a different nature from the former: the ſuſpicions of mankind may, perhaps, be found to glance at an affirmative.

Various are the motives which urge mankind to ſuch an activity of exertion in the acquiſition of wealth! Some look with anxious deſire to attain the importance which riches bring along with them: others conſider it as the means of procuring the comforts and pleaſures of life: while there are many, whoſe pride, leſs attentive to themſelves and their own period, looks with ardour towards the laſting eſtabliſhment of their name and family, and who build the ſuperſtructure of great wealth, as a foundation for the honour and titles

of

of their deſcendants. If the latter object was among the views of this nobleman's father, his ſon has fully completed it, by adding the peerage of a ſiſter kingdom to his hereditary rank. He may, indeed, have improved upon the paternal plan by the ſumptuous manner in which he ſuſtains the firſt-rate ſplendor of the man of faſhion †.

Sir

† I enquired of a man of the world, who happened to call upon me while the foregoing article was under my conſideration, what was the ſplendor of a man of faſhion? and he anſwered, without the leaſt heſitation, that it conſiſted of a fine houſe in town, a fine place in the country, and ſuperb equipages; a beautiful wife, who is admired by all the world, and a handſome miſtreſs who intrigues with half the town. A little occaſional gaming, he ſaid, might add to the portrait; and a few decent

Sir J. I— —.

IT is related by *Plutarch*, that *Surena*, the *Parthian* General, and the braveſt man of the nation, painted his face. An attention to perſonal decoration is not always inconſiſtent with real courage. The ſame men are, oftentimes, equally qualified to ſhine in the elegance of luxurious life, to bear the hardſhips of war, and to

decent mortgages would complete it. My illuſtration of the expreſſion would have varied, in ſome degree, from that which I have given; but it is my wiſh, at all times, to profit from ſuperior information. As to Sir M— — L—, the father of this nobleman, the acts that he did, and the wealth that he acquired, are they not recorded in the chronicles, and continually lamented by the heir of the houſe of S— — — —?

encounter

encounter the dangers of battle. The gallant ſpirit which, in the piping times of peace, ſhall delight *to caper in a ladies chamber to the laſcivious pleaſing of a lute*, when rouſed by the trumpet's clangor, may quit, without a ſigh, the ſilken couch, put on the bruiſed armour, and hurry to the field.

The natural diſtinction between the vanity of fancy and the vanity of the mind, is obvious to the moſt tranſient obſervation. The former may be conſidered as an idle, amuſive ſport, and the poſſeſſor of it will himſelf join in the good-humoured laugh which it's caprices may inſpire. It is a trouble which he is ever ready to throw from him when any ſerious

duty demands the unimportant ſacrifice. But the latter is an unmanly quality, ſeriouſly attentive to little things, and finds affront in the unapplauding ſtare of blunt ſimplicity. I need not add, that the man who poſſeſſes it muſt be incapable of that magnanimity which is the ſoul of military exertion. Such a one is merely qualified for the moſt inanimate and ſtationary employments of civil life.

I am diſpoſed to adopt the opinion, that there is a very eſſential difference between the perſon who forms a mode of external appearance for himſelf, and the *petit maître* who is a ſlave to the faſhion of the day. The former may have a tincture of the

ridiculous

ridiculous about him; but it is far more manly to adopt an innocent ſingularity for oneſelf, than, like the latter, to become the ape of others follies, and be continually hunting the variations of Faſhion through every idle metamorphoſis of that capricious Dæmon. I could purſue this idea ſtill further, but the application might preſs ſo hard upon another, as to produce no ſmall degree of unavailing mortification to myſelf *.

The

* To ſuffer a perſon, ſuſpected of being a coxcomb from principle, to be appointed to great military command, is trifling with the honour of a brave army. The General, whoſe name is on the foregoing page, whatever may be his perſonal foibles, has his virtues, and to them he owed the ſtation which, till of late, gave no ſmall dignity to his character, and the ribband which ſtill continues to de-

The Hon. G— — — H—.

I AM never at my eaſe when any thing like party, or a ſubmiſſion to the preferences of party, operates in appointments of great concern and

corate his perſon. He has long been the intimate friend of Lord G— G— —, and preſerved his attachment to him, at the adverſe and diſgraceful moment, when to acknowledge his friendſhip was almoſt conſidered, by the nation at large, as the partaking of his diſhonour. That nobleman, on his advancement to civil power, did not forget his friend, and, from a ſenſe of his private fidelity, recommended him to public honour, and rewarded him with public emolument. When G— — — I— —, with all the ceremony of *Straſburg* ſnuff, which he emphatically calls his *ragout*, was uſed to declare, that, if ever he ſhould poſſeſs the high honour of the Red Ribbon, he would be moſt attentive to the contrivance

and importance. Intrinſic merit ſhould be the ſole recommendation to public confidence; and the Miniſter who wants ſufficient reſolution to ſupport his

contrivance of cloaths whoſe contraſted colour would render it truly conſpicuous. Not one of his various, ſucceſſive, and ſmiling auditors could poſſibly ſuſpect that the opportunity would ever happen, when he ſhould put his magnanimous reſolution in practice. But the ſtrange event has actually arrived, and Sir J— proves himſelf a man of honour, by keeping his word with the ribband, and giving it every advantage of adjuſtment and colour which the moſt grateful vanity can contrive. It is from this honourable motive that he diſplays ſuch a coquettiſh negligence of the *ſubduing* ſcarlet, and gives ſo decided a preference to the *more military* regimentals of the French army. The perſons who furniſhed his late ſuperb town-manſion, might be good upholſterers, but they were bad politicians, to give ſo large a credit upon the ſtrength of the late Miniſtry:—they fell from

his own judgment, is not qualified for his office. Such a man, in ſacrificing his conviction to partial intereſts, forfeits the truſt repoſed in him, and betrays his country *.

When any of the regular offices of the State become vacant, the difficulty of finding proper perſons to fill them is not great. Diligence, in-

power, the Knight loſt his place, and all the ſplendid furniture, after ſix months idle parade, was conſigned to the auctioneer, for the benefit of the honeſt people who had never been paid for it.

* Lord *Chatham* was of the ſame opinion, and, therefore, quitted his poſt the moment that he was over-ruled in the Cabinet. But ſucceeding Miniſters have not poſſeſſed his abilities or magnanimity,—and the nation is falling from that glory to which he had raiſed it.

tegrity,

tegrity, and the common knowledge of every gentleman, are ſufficient qualifications to perform the duties of ſuch employments. It is the buſineſs of thoſe who are engaged in the ſuperintendence of any department, to direct and watch over the official ſubalterns, to whom the executive labours are aſſigned; and if, from the want of due experience, or other circumſtances, they ſhould, at any time, ſtand in need of inſtruction, the requiſite aſſiſtance is ever at hand.

But it ſometimes happens, that the exigencies of the State may require a temporary political character which muſt be created for the purpoſe; or they may demand the employment of one or more of the public ſervants,

in a new and unexpected ſcene of action. To encreaſe the importance of the occaſion, the field of duty may be, neceſſarily, at ſuch a diſtance from the firſt ſource of council and direction, as to leave much, and, perhaps, an eſſential part of the buſineſs to the diſcretion and wiſdom of the perſon employed to conduct it. To find a man duly qualified for ſuch a ſituation, whether it may, in the firſt inſtance, require a military, naval, or civil character, is not the work of a day;—the taſk is arduous, and, in times like our own, is attended with almoſt inſuperable difficulties.

The preſent moment demands ſuch an irregular ſervice. The revolted inhabitants of America muſt, if poſſible,

ble, be reduced to obedience by force of arms, if lenient meaſures prove ineffectual to convince them of their error †. Were the public ſervice in want of an able and active General to command an expedition againſt the natural enemy, ſuch an officer might be named in the inſtant of projecting a plan of operations. Profeſſional talents, and perſonal bravery, are the one only appropriate qualifications for ſuch a duty. The love of his country he would poſſeſs in common with every inhabitant of the empire. But it is not the mere

† Theſe obſervations appear to have been written at the time when the H—s were appointed to take the American command; and, from various circumſtances, I am diſpoſed to ſuſpect an interpolation.

ſoldier,

ſoldier, however brave or ſcientific in the art of war, who will be qualified to take upon him the command of the Britiſh army now employed to aſſert the rights of the mother-country over her rebellious children, and his own revolted brethren. He is to appear in the field with the ſword in one hand, and the olive-branch in the other. He muſt poſſeſs the inſtruments of vengeance, as well as reconciliation; and ſhould have an equal capacity to wield the one, as to preſent the other. He is to be the miniſter of peace, or the engine of war; and if he knows not the art of ſoothing the ſpirit of rebellion by moderate and wiſe negotiations, as well as of cruſhing oppoſition by

the

the terror of his arms, he is not the man to whom Great-Britain ſhould entruſt the important commiſſion.

There are alſo other circumſtances for ſubordinate conſideration, which may be of no common utility in forwarding the various beneficial deſigns of this momentous appointment. Endearing manners and perſonal virtues will be of eſſential ſervice. An acknowledged magnanimity of character will have it's effect. Every means of irritating the deluded rebel muſt be cautiouſly avoided; and it may be ſuppoſed to have a ſoftening influence on the enraged American, when he knows that the man, who commands the army of his

his offended Sovereign, poſſeſſes a reſolution, when the ſword is unſheathed, to apply it with vigour; that he is equally attentive to leſſen the horrors of war, to reſtrain the licentiouſneſs of armed men, to preſerve an wholeſome diſcipline; and that he prefers the palm to the laurel.

It will not, alſo, betray an unreaſonable or idle precaution, to conſider that the manners of a great part of the Americans have a deep tincture of calviniſtical ſeverity. A perſon, therefore, of a decent exterior, and of moral virtue, at leaſt, would be the beſt calculated to gain that eſteem among them, which muſt be

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the fore-runner of a confidence eſſential to any propoſitions of accommodation.

I may now aſk the ſerious queſtion, whether the honourable General who is appointed to command the Britiſh army in America, and bears with him the important commiſſion to reſtore, by every lenient endeavour, the former proſperity of the colonies, poſſeſſes the qualifications requiſite to diſcharge the arduous duties of the two-fold character with which he is inveſted? If he ſhould be endued with the knowledge and accompliſhments neceſſary to the taſk he has undertaken to fulfil,—has he no improper bias from particular, perſonal attachments, rooted opinions,

or former public declarations?—Is there any doubt concerning the nature of his political ſentiments?—Do the circumſtances of his paſt life afford a reaſonable hope that he will prove a ſucceſsful Miniſter to his country?—In ſhort, Is he animated with an unqueſtionable zeal to anſwer the purpoſes of the government that employs him?—Theſe are queſtions which muſt have been repeatedly agitated by thoſe Miniſters whoſe immediate concern it was to arrange all the circumſtances of this appointment; and I moſt devoutly hope, that the honourable General's conduct will, in due time, give a ſatisfactory anſwer to them all.

I have my ardent wiſhes!—My zealous

zealous confidence has, I truſt, ſomewhat of a ſolid foundation. Nevertheleſs, I am not without very diſcouraging moments of apprehenſion. The choice of this officer was the more readily adopted, as it might prove the means of ſoftening the oppoſition of a party, with whom he is connected, and by whom he is eſteemed. That party, therefore, who have, by their clamours at home, fomented rebellion abroad, may ſhare in his breaſt, with the Miniſters of his Sovereign, the gratitude that is due for the diſtinguiſhed ſtation to which he has been advanced. His ſenſe of obligation being thus divided, may operate inſenſibly upon his future conduct, which, from the objects of his commiſſion, cannot be

confined

confined within preſcribed limits, but muſt be left, in a great degree, to his own pleaſure. I am not affected by the gloom of a deſponding moment, when I foreſee the poſſibility of ſituations, in which perplexity may produce languor, or diſtract the energies of public duty. Should ſuch ſuſpicions be prophetic,—what an affecting change will follow, from the eagerneſs of preſent expectation, to the anguiſh of future diſappointment.

If I were to communicate theſe inſinuations, they would, in all probability, be accuſed of premature ſeverity; and I might be told, that a ſenſe of perſonal honour, and the ſacred bond of public engagement, even if there ſhould be no other, ought

ought to be conſidered as a ſufficient ſecurity againſt all alarm. It may be ſo; but the hiſtory of party, in theſe kingdoms, tells another ſtory, and is ſufficient to juſtify any and every apprehenſion *.

* The whole of the American war has been ſo unfortunate, that whatever part becomes a ſubject of conſideration, it ſerves but to arouſe the utmoſt ſeverity of indignation againſt thoſe men who have been employed to conduct it. The appointment of General G— to the command of the American army, was dictated by the humane wiſh to ſpare the effuſion of blood. That officer had reſided many years in the colonies, where he had married a lady from one of the beſt families; and had not only lived in the habits of friendſhip with the principal inhabitants, but had conducted himſelf in ſuch a manner as to have obtained the reſpect of all ranks among them. Such a man was well calculated to conciliate by gentle means, but not to ſubdue by force. He failed of ſucceſs, and General H— was

choſen to ſucceed him. The connections of the *former* in America occaſioned his appointment; that of the *latter* aroſe from his connections at home.

At this period the humanity of the Engliſh nation was awakened towards their Tranſatlantic brethren. The war was an unpopular war; the ſervice, therefore, of thoſe who were employed in it was an unpopular ſervice, and continued to be ſo till America threw herſelf into the arms of France, and made a common cauſe with the natural enemies of Great-Britain. On this account, it might be neceſſary to humour the general temper of the People, as well as to aim at ſoothing the inveteracy of Oppoſition, by fixing upon an officer of popular diſpoſitions, and whoſe political connections might take away all ſuſpicion of his being the blind engine of Adminiſtration. It was, indeed, very generally ſuppoſed, that G— — —l H—'s acceptance of the command implied a tacit approbation from the party with whom he had been connected; and the letter he wrote to Nottingham on the occaſion, and which has been ſince publiſhed, confirms the propriety of ſuch a conjecture.

At length the General arrives in America, with powers that were then thought ſufficient to compoſe the ſubſiſting differences, and takes upon him the command of as fine an army as, for it's numbers, was ever ſeen on a field of battle. But he employed neither the one nor the other with ſucceſs. He could not make peace, and he did not make war. The ſummers were conſumed in fatiguing, expenſive, and uſeleſs operations; the winters paſſed away in luſt and luxury. If his campaigns had been thoſe of *Hannibal*, he might, like that Hero, in his repoſe from toil, have mingled roſes with his laurels, and his country would not have reproached him. I have read his defence, and found not the expected juſtification. I have peruſed, with equal attention, Mr. G———'s obſervations upon it, and guilt is in every page of that examination. Sometimes genius and knowledge are deficient for the completion of important enterprize; ſometimes only opportunities, and ſometimes inclination. The firſt his animated and ſhrewd obſerver declares he poſſeſſed, and endeavours to prove his aſſertion by very ſtriking examples:—the ſecond continually preſented themſelves before him.

Is it poſſible that the laſt alone ſhould be found wanting?

It cannot be denied, that G——— H— was beloved in his army; but did the eſteem of his ſoldiers ariſe from having been led by him to frequent victory, or from a relaxation of diſcipline, which, though it may gratify the paſſions of men uſed to rigid ſeverity, encreaſes the adverſe ſpirit of hoſtility, and diſgraces the military name. The *Fête* which was given to the departing commander, by the officers of his late army, was not the feſtival of Victory, who wiſhed to decorate the adieus of an hero who had covered her with laurels;—it was the idle pageantry of Folly—it was the fantaſtic applauſe of grateful Pleaſure.

On his return to England, the Miniſtry, who were much diſſatisfied with his ill-ſucceſs, had not the courage to enter into a ſerious and active examination of his conduct. The Oppoſition bullied,—and the General, who had thrown himſelf into their arms for protection, held a moderate language of defiance. An inadequate body of evidence was preſented to the Houſe of Commons, which ended in nothing. The

baffled

baffled Miniſtry were glad to get rid of the buſineſs; the Minority enjoyed a factious triumph; and, while more important objects aroſe to engage their reſpective attentions,—Sir W———H—ſunk at once into ſuch profound oblivion, that the ſtar upon his breaſt could not irradiate the gloom of his own petty atmoſphere.——The preſent Adminiſtration have recalled him to employment, but they have thought proper, at the ſame time, to throw out an apology for a promotion which ſurpriſed many, and has been applauded by few.—It has been authoritatively aſſerted, that the neceſſary ſervices of a great Naval Officer could not be obtained upon any other conditions.———The following ſpirited epitome of military errors in America occurs to me at this moment, and, with the inſertion of it, I ſhall conclude theſe obſervations, and this volume.

If Sir W———H— had fortified the hills round Boſton, he could not have been driven from it;—had he purſued his victory at Long-Iſland, he had ended the rebellion;—had he landed above New-York, not a man could have eſcaped him;—had he fought the Americans at the Brunx, he was ſure

ſure of a victory;—had he co-operated with the northern army, he had ſaved it; or had he gone to Philadelphia by land, he had ruined Mr. Waſhington and his forces: but as he did none of theſe things, had he been conſigned to his grave, inſtead of being ſent to America,—many a ſtream of blood, many a million of treaſure, and a long ſeries of diſhonour, had been ſaved to his country.

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